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An armoured personnel carrier rolls through the streets of Lithuanian capital, Vilnius, as part of a military convoy. (Reuters wirephoto)

Soviet tanks thunder into Lithuania

VILNIUS, USSR, March 24: An armoured column of almost 100 Soviet tanks and military vehicles rolled through the heart of the Lithuanian capital early today in what apparently was another Kremlin bid to unnerve independence leaders.

Lithuanian lawmakers were in session about 100 metres (yards) from the path of the convoy, which rumbled along the main highway through the heart of Vilnius at about 4 am (0200 GMT). It didn't stop.

"We felt we were really in an occupied country," President Vytautas Landsbergis said afterward. "An alien power sent forces and we don't know why."

Official Lithuanian sources said the convoy contained at least 1,000

paratroopers armed with automatic weapons.

After the convoy roared through, the Lithuanian capital was quiet, and polls opened later for elections to local governing councils.

A deadline also passed for Lithuanian deserters to return to their Soviet military units with no sign that the deserters were being rounded up.

Parliament said he had seen the convoy pull into a military base at Siaurės Mieselis on the north side of the capital.

Nervous legislators passed a resolution transferring power to the senior diplomat of their breakaway Baltic republic in Washington, DC, Stasys Lozoraitis Jr, in

case Moscow used force to take control of Lithuania or arrested its leaders.

"This is absurd, armoured vehicles don't usually drive through the middle of town in the middle of the night," Lithuanian Premier Kazimiera Prunskiene told reporters at the Supreme Council legislature.

"We're not afraid, but we don't know what they want, and we don't know what they will do in the next few hours," she said.

After passing the resolution transferring power to the diplomat in Washington, several legislators walked about 100 metres (yards) from the legislative chambers to a highway overpass to watch the Soviet military column rumble through

the city.

The show of force today, the second since Thursday, left Lithuanian officials wondering what Gorbachev would do next.

On Thursday, in the first show of force, the Soviet military moved more than a dozen armoured personnel carriers and military trucks into Vilnius.

Moving the column into the Vilnius area early today increased pressure on the Lithuanian government by making it easier for Moscow to send troops quickly into action.

The information department of the republic's Supreme Council legislature

(Continued on Page 2)

\$2b petro-chemical project

Mega-plant approved

KUWAIT'S top planners yesterday approved a \$2 billion petrochemical complex aimed at increasing the Gulf state's revenue by boosting exports of refined products.

Officials said the Supreme Planning Council, headed by His Highness the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, approved the eight-plant complex after a three-hour meeting to review final plans.

Diplomats in Kuwait from several industrial nations were closely watching the outcome of Saturday's session. The project is expected to be open to international bidding.

The project, proposed by the state-run Kuwait Petroleum Corp., has been under discussion by the body over the past weeks, and was expected to be launched to international bidding shortly.

"The council has approved the project," Council Secretary-General Fouad Mulla Hussein told the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA).

Officials told Reuters the council,

whose endorsement was crucial, approved the project after Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah addressed questions raised at a meeting earlier this month.

The communications minister attended the discussions concerning the proposal and answered all questions raised by the HPC members, who later approved the proposal and assigned the ministry to prepare the feasibility study, he added.

HPC secretary general points out that the council approved the memorandum by the general policies committee which dealt with the 4th annual report to follow up implementation of the five-year plan.

He said the council decided to submit the memo to the Council of Ministers.

For his part, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed informed the council on the outcome of meetings of the Arab foreign ministers held lately in the Arab League headquarters in Tunis.

Initial support for the project had

already been expressed by His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, the Crown Prince, the Cabinet and the Higher Petroleum Council, officials said.

The complex will produce low and high density polyethylene, ethylene glycol, polystyrene, styrene monomer, styrene butadiene and aromatics.

Officials said it would spawn several associated industries.

Kuwait, one of the world's largest investors, has an extensive downstream network including five refineries, two of them in Western Europe, and some 5,000 petrol stations in Europe.

Last week it announced the purchase of Mobil Oil Italian Spa for some \$300 million.

The deal includes a 100,000 barrel per day (bpd) refinery in Naples, an adjoining aromatics plant and about 2,000 service stations, raising Kuwait's share of the Italian distribution network to 10.5 per cent from 3.5 per cent.

Mubarak meets Assad ending twelve-year rift

Arab leaders in display of unity with Libya

ROME, March 24, (AP): President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and Hafez Assad of Syria met today for the first time since ending a 10-year rift between their countries, joining other Arab leaders in Libya, a news report said.

The leaders of Egypt, Syria, Sudan and Libya joined in a display of Arab unity for ceremonies marking the 20th anniversary of the expulsion of British forces from Libya.

Libya has said the plant is to produce medicines and that the fire was an act of sabotage, perhaps by US, Israeli or West German agents. Libyan dissidents abroad, however, say Libya staged a limited fire to avert a possible US attack.

It is also the fourth anniversary of a Libyan confrontation with the United States Navy in the Gulf of Sirte.

The three Arab leaders are the first high-level visitors to Libya since Washington earlier this month revived allegations that Libya was producing chemical weapons at the Rabta factory, 80 km (50 miles) southwest of Tripoli.

A mysterious fire broke out at the plant on March 14 but it is not clear how much damage it did or who was responsible.

Indian troops leave Lanka

TRINCOMALEE, Sri Lanka, March 24, (Agencies): The final contingent of about 2,000 Indian soldiers sailed today, amid fanfare from the northeastern port town of Trincomalee, marking the end of a controversial military presence in Sri Lanka that began more than 2-1/2 years ago.

The 50,000 troops India sent failed to dislodge the heavily-armed Tamil Tiger guerrillas who now control areas India had tried to secure for the Colombo government. So although today's withdrawal ended fears of a permanent Indian occupation of the teardrop-shaped island of 17 million, formerly known as Ceylon, the prospects of a division into a Buddhist south and a Tamil north appeared to grow.

The withdrawal of the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) began in phases last year and ended one week before the March 31, 1990 deadline agreed to by India and Sri Lanka.

"The job is done and I go back proud to a nation that awaits equally proud," said Lt. Gen. A.S. Kalkat, the IPKF commander in Sri Lanka. "There is nothing more a soldier can ask for."

The troops departed in five ships about 10 am.

"You have made a great sacrifice, there is no doubt about that," Sri Lankan Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne told the troops wearing camouflage uniforms.

A mixed group of the Indian army, navy and air force, smiling and waving aboard the frigate Magar, were the last to pull out of Trincomalee to the strains of "Auld Lang Syne" played by the Sri Lanka navy band.

Indian High Commissioner L.L. Mehrotra said in the IPKF "leaves with a sense of fulfillment. All the elements in conflict have turned away from war to the negotiating table seeking peaceful and democratic solutions within a united Sri Lanka."

Mehrotra and Wijeratne, watched the remaining several hundred IPKF troops march single file up the gang plank of the I.N.S. Magar, docked at the China Bay naval air station. The ships also carried away guns, heavy equipment, tanks and other combat vehicles.

"We haven't left one gun, one piece of equipment — nothing," said Col. Naeem Farooqi, an IPKF public relations officer.

Farooqi said the morale of the IPKF troops was high and that "everyone is happy because they are going back home."



Mystery illness

Nurses in Pristina hospital restrain spasmodically thrashing ethnic Albanian girl, one of hundreds of Albanians rushed to hospital in Yugoslavia's Kosovo province with a mysterious illness that has sparked ethnic clashes. (Reuters wirephoto) (See Page 4)

It's another daughter for Fergie

LONDON, March 24, (Reuters): Britain's Duchess of York, popularly known as "Fergie," gave birth to a baby girl yesterday — a sister for 19-month-old Princess Beatrice.

The flame-haired Duchess and her 7lb 1-1/2 oz (3.2 kilo) daughter were both doing well, Buckingham Palace said.

Husband Prince Andrew was present at the birth in a central London hospital after rushing from a British south coast port where the Royal Navy frigate on which he is serving is docked.

The new baby, sixth in line to the throne after her sister, was born by Caesarian section after it was found to be upside down in the breech position. No name has been announced.

Prince Andrew, Queen Elizabeth's second son, emerged from the Portland Hospital and told crowds of reporters that mother and baby were "very well, fine. I will be back tomorrow."

Queen Elizabeth was said to be delighted at the birth of her sixth grandchild.

The Duchess' father, polo enthusiast Major Ronald Ferguson, told reporters outside his farmhouse in southern Britain: "I am delighted for the mother and daughter."

The birth came four hours after the Duchess was admitted to the hospital by a side door to avoid waiting cameramen, many of whom had

camped on the pavement for days.

The traditional notice, posted on the railings outside Buckingham Palace, said: "Her Royal Highness the Duchess of York was safely delivered of a daughter at 7.58 pm (1958 GMT) today. Her Royal Highness and her child are well."

The birth was greeted by cheering from a small crowd of well-wishers outside the hospital, many of whom had brought champagne to celebrate the announcement.

The boisterous 30-year-old Duchess, who learned to fly helicopters after marrying Prince Andrew in 1986, has said they want a large family although she finds it hard to combine motherhood with her royal duties.

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(Continued on Page 2)



Call for AL meeting

The Arab League will meet in Tunis on Monday at Iraq's request to counter international criticism of Iraq's execution of British-based journalist Farzad Bazoft, a League spokesman said on Saturday.

Yugoslav Prime Minister Ante Markovic has called off a visit to Baghdad at the Iraqi government's request because of Belgrade's criticism of the execution of Bazoft, diplomats said.

A plywood case containing the body of Bazoft is unloaded from the hold of a jumbo jet at Heathrow airport. (Reuters wirephoto)

India temple tragedy

NEW DELHI, March 24, (Agencies): At least 25 people were killed today when firecrackers exploded during a festival at a southern Indian temple, the Press Trust of India reported.

It said at least 77 people were hurt when the fireworks, intended to provide a colourful finale to a 10-day Hindu festival, caught fire and exploded. About 100,000 people were gathered for the display at Malanada, near Quilon, in the state of Kerala.

The agency said the firecrackers were stored in the temple and exploded after the man in charge of arranging the display went inside to fetch them.

The temple building collapsed in flames within minutes.

The agency quoted a top Kerala police official as saying most of the 25 bodies were charred beyond recognition.

PIT quoted officials as saying about 100,000 people had gathered in the outer portion of the temple and in surrounding paddy fields to witness the fireworks display scheduled to begin before dawn today.

NEWSWATCH



Beauty for booth

Gold Coast voters Karen Fitzsimmons and Jerri Scott on their way to the Surfers Paradise polling booth in Australia's general election. (Reuters wirephoto)

Rebel attacks: Afghan rebels have attacked several strategic cities in the south of the country in what appeared to be the start of a mujahideen spring offensive, a government spokesman said on Saturday.

Government troops killed 39 rebels in fierce fighting around the besieged city of Khost today, acting Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Naqib said.

There was no immediate independent confirmation of the battle. (Reuters)

Honecker homeless: Disgraced former East German leader Erich Honecker on Saturday left the pastor's house where he has sheltered for the last two months only to be forced out of his new home by street protests.

The head of the government guest house north of Berlin where Honecker and his wife were due to move said a citizens' committee had decided to refuse the couple hospitality. (Reuters)

PFLP plans party: A radical Syrian-based PLO group, may set up a political party in Jordan, one of its members said today.

Deeb Marji, a member of the Marxist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) who was elected to Parliament in November, said PFLP leaders would decide whether to go ahead at a planned meeting in Amman in May. (Reuters)



Statue floats

Statue of victory goddess Nike floats over the tower of the Reichstag building after being dismantled from top of Brandenburg Gate for restoration in Berlin. (Reuters wirephoto)

Gorby keeps Ryzhkov 'out'

MOSCOW, March 24, (UPI): Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev named a 10-member presidential council today that but did not include Premier Nikolai Ryzhkov.

The council, in effect Gorbachev's national security council, included his two close Politburo aides Alexander Yakovlev and Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

Saudis arrest two British male nurses

RIYADH, March 24, (AP): Two British male nurses are under arrest in Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province in circumstances that are yet unclear, British embassy officials and other sources reported today.

The embassy did not identify the men or give any details. But the sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the arrests took place about a week ago in Abqaiq near the kingdom's oil capital of Dhahran.

The sources were unclear about the reason for the arrests. Some contended the Britons were taking photographs in forbidden areas, others said the men were involved in pornographic video deals.

An embassy spokesman, who cannot be named

under embassy rules, said: "We're in touch with the Saudi authorities about the arrests. It is our understanding that the men have not been charged yet."

Last July, another British male nurse was jailed for dealing in contraband pornography. The arrest was not mentioned in the local media.

The usual procedure in Saudi Arabia for dealing with foreigners in such cases is to have them arraigned and tried, and then to deport them.

There are a number of British male nurses working at the British-run Al Fanateer Hospital in Jubail, a petrochemical industry centre near Dhahran.

There are an estimated 3 million expatriates working in Saudi Arabia.

UK imposes new curbs

LONDON, March 24, (AP): Britain on Thursday restricted rights of settlement for citizens of the 49 countries joined with it in the Commonwealth of former colonies.

From May 1, immigrants who intend to work and had at least one grandparent born in Britain will have to live in Britain for four years to qualify for settlement instead of being granted it on arrival. The sum of money they must have to qualify as businessmen or as persons of independent means have been increased by 33 per cent.

Weather

PARTLY cloudy weather with light to moderate northerly to northeasterly wind.

State of sea: Moderate

High water: 10.00 pm, 12.00 pm

Low water: 3.00 pm, 5.00 am

Sunrise: 5.46 am

Sunset: 6.02 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 30°C 86°F

Ahmad: 24°C 75°F

Falaka: 25°C 77°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 18°C 64°F

Ahmad: 20°C 68°F

Falaka: 19°C 66°F

Maximum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 29°C 84°F

Ahmad: 25°C 77°F

Falaka: 26°C 79°F

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 62 per cent

Ahmad: 54 per cent

Falaka: 52 per cent

INTERNATIONAL



Seoul protest

South Korean union leaders wearing headbands reading 'Obtain Through Fighting' shout slogans criticising government labour policies. More than 2,500 members of the Federation of Korean Trade Union staged an anti-government rally in a Seoul plaza in Yoi-Do. (Reuters wirephoto)

Kashmiri militants kidnap another

CPI leader gunned down

SRINAGAR, March 24. (Reuters): A senior leader of the Communist Party of India was shot dead by suspected Kashmiri separatists and a Kashmir politician was kidnapped in Srinagar, police said today.

They said two gunmen stormed the house of communist leader Abdus Sattar Ranjor in Keygam, 30 miles (50 km) south of the capital, about midnight on Friday and shot him.

None of the approximately 30 militant groups fighting for Kashmir's independence from India has so far claimed responsibility for the killing.

Police said Mir Mustafa, an independent member of the dissolved Jammu and Kashmir state assembly, was kidnapped by suspected militants from a Srinagar suburb today.

The suspected militants stopped Mustafa's car, beat up his driver and took him away in their own vehicle.

No group has claimed responsibility for the abduction and Mustafa's whereabouts were not known. The security forces were

Singh declines comment

NEW DELHI, March 24. (UPI): Prime Minister V.P. Singh declined to comment today on reports that three brothers of an Indian arms-dealing family in London controlled a Swiss bank account into which A.B. Bofors of Sweden deposited alleged payoffs.

Singh, asked by reporters at an official function about the report in today's editions of several major dailies, said it would "not be fair" to comment because an investigation into the scandal was still underway.

Bofors has been accused of paying millions of dollars in kickbacks to Indian officials in return for a \$1.3 billion contract in 1986 to sell 400 howitzers to the Indian Army.

Singh praised the Central Bureau of Investigation for progress it has made in advancing the probe, including the freezing of six Swiss bank accounts and obtaining the assistance of Swiss authorities in the case.

He took a swing at his predecessor, Rajiv Gandhi, asking why his administration had not taken similar steps aimed at verifying allegations that Bofors had paid kickbacks.

put on red alert and a hunt launched for the politician.

Mustafa, 73, played a key role as a go-between in December when Indian Home Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed's daughter was kidnapped by members of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF).

She was freed in exchange for five militants detained by the government.

Separatist calls appear in Xinjiang

BEIJING, March 24. (Agencies): Leaflets calling for an end to Chinese rule have appeared in China's westernmost region, an official from the area said today, in the latest sign of unrest in the Xinjiang autonomous region.

Amudun Niyazi, chairman of the Xinjiang People's Congress Standing Committee, said handbills, leaflets and other materials "instigating separatist activities" had been discovered circulating in the region.

Niyazi said there had been no ethnic violence in Xinjiang, which is home to 25 different minority making up nearly two-thirds of the population.

But the past few months news reports from Xinjiang have hinted of trouble. Editorials and commentaries stressing the need for unity and stability and denouncing "separatist" activities have increased markedly.

In January, the region's armed police were ordered to intensify anti-riot training

and intelligence work to prevent unrest. Among the largest groups in Xinjiang are the Muslim Uygur and Kazakh minorities. Central Asian ethnic groups with close ties to people living across the border in the Soviet Union.

Xinjiang's delegates to the National People's Congress, holding its annual session in Beijing this week, were quoted by the Xinjiang daily earlier this month as saying the region has "a small number of separatists, who present the greatest threat

Xinjiang's stability. The delegates called the separatists "the scum of the Chinese people" and said they were acting under the guise of advocating religious freedom and democracy.

"We must be on the alert," the delegates were quoted as saying. Leaders of Xinjiang today accused foreign activists of using Islam to whip up unrest there, even smuggling propaganda across the border in copies of the Holy Quran.

Ministers elected to Indian RS seats

By Thomas Abraham
Arab Times correspondent

NEW DELHI, March 24. Central ministers P. Upendra, M. S. Gurupadaswamy, M. G. K. Menon and Raja Ramanna were among those elected to the Rajya Sabha from different states this week.

Information Minister Upendra was elected from Andhra Pradesh, while Petroleum Minister Gurupadaswamy and Minister of State for Defence, Ramanna, were returned from Uttar Pradesh. Minister of state for science and technology was elected from Rajasthan.

Also elected from Uttar Pradesh was Mahatma Gandhi's grandson, Rajmohan Gandhi, who had fought unsuccessfully against former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi from Amethi in the November general elections.

Well-known industrialist K.K. Birla was a second term in the Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan as a Congress (I) nominee. The former maharaja of Jodhpur, Gaj Singh, was elected as an independent candidate from the state.

Besides Upendra, others elected from Andhra Pradesh were Janata Dal spokesman S. Jaipal Reddy and R.K. Dhawan, an aide to Rajiv Gandhi, who was one of the Congress candidates. T. Chandrasekhara Reddy, M. M. Hashim and N. P. Kotiah (all Congress) were the others elected from Andhra Pradesh.

In Maharashtra, four Congress candidates and one each of the Janata Dal, BJP and Shiv Sena were elected unopposed. They were former union finance minister S.B. Chavan, Finance Commission chairman O. K. P. Salve, Jagdish Desai and Congress general secretary Ghanum Nani Azad (all Congress).

Bapu Kalatda (Janata Dal) industrialist Viree Shukla (BJP) and former state minister Chandrika Kena (Shiv Sena).

Dr J. K. Jain of the BJP was declared elected unopposed from Madhya Pradesh in the by-election caused by the resignation of party president L. K. Advani, who was elected to the Lok Sabha last November.

In Gujarat, there are five candidates in the fray for the biennial elections to be held on March 29. They included sitting member Chinabhai Mehta (Janata Dal) and former state Congress president Ahmed Patel.

Union Law Minister Dinesh Goswami is among the seven candidates seeking election to the Rajya Sabha from Assam.

In Meghalaya, there will be a straight fight for the one seat between sitting Congress member J. E. Turiang and former diplomat and Lok Sabha deputy speaker G. G. Swell.

Hawke predicts narrow victory

Claims right to form caretaker govt

SYDNEY, March 24. (Reuters): Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke said his Labour government was heading for victory by a narrow margin in today's general election and claimed the right to form a caretaker administration.

He said Labour could not finalise its position because counting had still to be completed.

"It is obvious to me I should continue in a caretaker capacity until those results are finalised," he said.

"In all the circumstances I believe I will be in a position to be called upon to form the fourth Hawke government," he told a news conference. Hawke has been prime minister for seven years.

Earlier it had appeared the vote was swinging in favour of the opposition Liberal-National Party coalition in a very close-fought election.

"It's clearly an extraordinarily close election, it's very hard to call. There are a number of seats where we will not have the result in for some days," said Labour's Environment Minister, Graeme Richardson.

More than five hours after the polls closed in most of the coun-

try, Labour spokesmen were claiming they held 72 of the 148 lower house seats, just short of an absolute majority.

Both parties agreed the final results would not be known tonight.

Labour's National Secretary Bob Hogg said: "I'm quiet confident. I think we will get through."

Opposition Liberal Party leader Andrew Peacock commented: "It's a bit too close to call at the moment. It's going to be a long night."

With most of the votes on the highly-populated east coast counted, the outcome depended on results in three marginal seats in Western Australia where the count started two hours later because of the time difference across the continent.

Despite a strong showing in the state of Victoria where the swing against Labour was about 11 per cent, the Liberals had mixed fortunes elsewhere.

They lost one Sydney seat to local politician Ted Mack who becomes the first independent in the federal parliament for 25 years. Analysts said it was possible Mack could hold the balance of power in a hung parliament.

Their junior coalition partner the National Party also appeared

to have lost its leader Charles Blunt whose seat was under threat from another independent.

Early results had shown an average national swing of about six per cent against Labour but as more votes were counted the result became more difficult to predict.

The conservative opposition Liberal-National Party coalition needs a uniform national swing of about 2.6 per cent in its favour to overturn Labour's 22-seat majority in the House of Representatives.

Australia's sagging economy has been the focus of a largely uneventful five-week campaign during which Peacock claimed Hawke's policies weren't working and that the country faced a recession.

Hawke campaigned on 'his record of economic reform even though the foreign debt has grown to the equivalent of \$100 billion.

Peacock has criticised the government because of the country's high home mortgage interest rates, now at a record 18 per cent.

Voting showed a big swing against the government, reflecting voter dissatisfaction with the high interest rates and inflation.

Hawke (top) and Peacock (below) cast their vote. (Reuters wirephotos)

At stake were 148 seats in the House of Representatives and 40 in the Senate. Australia had 10.6 million eligible voters among its 16.5 million people, and voting is compulsory.

Computer projections gave Hawke's Labour Party 73 seats — one short of a majority needed to form a government in the House of Representatives. But at least five of those seats remained doubtful.

Imelda doodles while jury pool slowly fills

NEW YORK, March 24. (UPI): Former Philippines first lady Imelda Marcos battled the drudgery of jury selection in her racketeering trial yesterday by sketching the faces of the men and women who could decide her fate.

Imelda, clad in black in mourning the death of her husband, deposed Philippines dictator Ferdinand Marcos, whiled away the fourth day of jury selection by doodling into a notepad as the judge questioned prospective jurors.

Her alleged co-conspirator, Saudi arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi, looked equally bored, but sat impassively in his chair, smiling once at a juror who told the court she recognised Khashoggi, once described as the richest man in the world, from the television show, "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous."

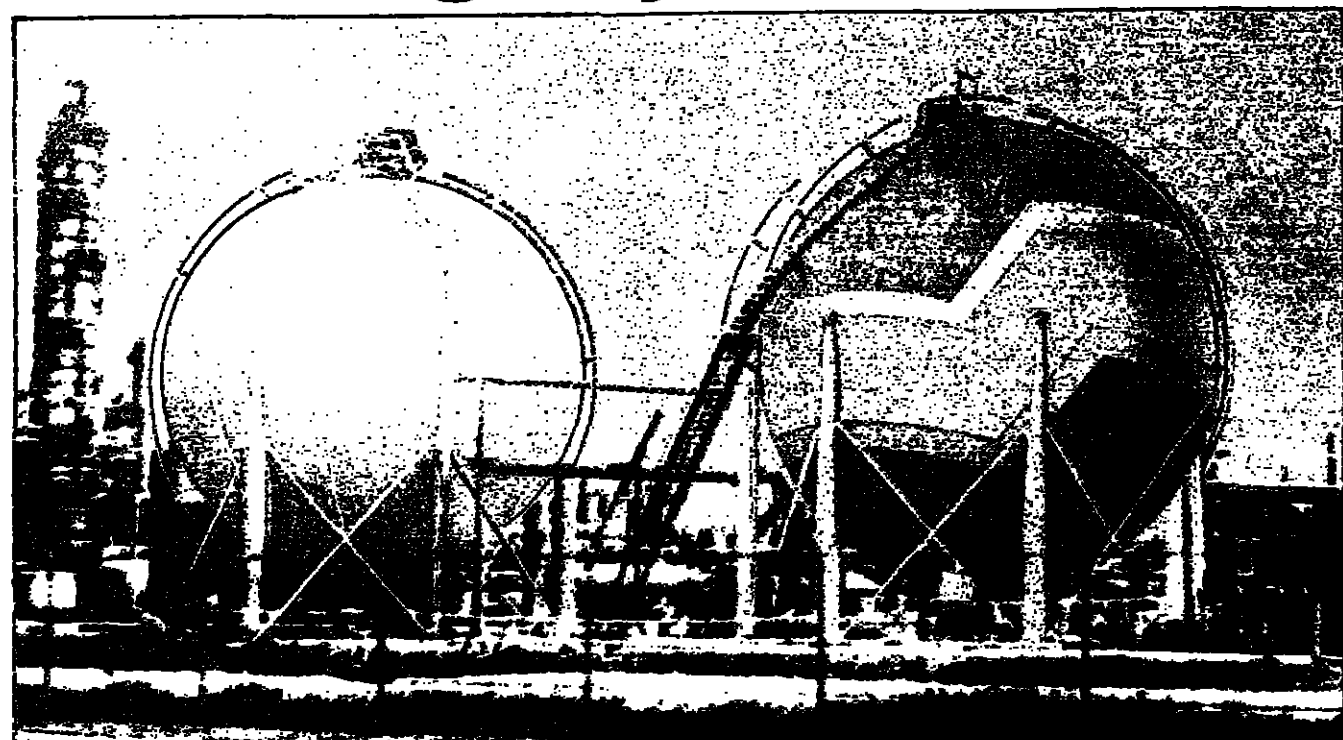
Imelda, 60, is accused of plotting a \$345 million racketeering scheme with her husband to siphon money from her native land's treasury. Prosecutors say Marcos, with Khashoggi's help, transferred more than \$160 million from the Philippines and invested it in Manhattan real estate.

Seven women and seven men were added to the pool of potential panelists yesterday, bringing to 45 the number of people selected. Jury selection was to resume Tuesday.

A pool of about 60 people had originally been sought, from which a final panel of 12 jurors and six alternates would be selected to hear the case.

As jury selection continued yesterday, however, US district judge John Keenan said he may settle for a pool of as few as 50, adding that any lower number would be "very dangerous."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Arafat to visit India: PLO chairman Yasser Arafat will pay a three-day visit to India beginning March 26, during which he will receive a prestigious Indian award for international understanding, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Friday.

The 60-year-old visitor will hold discussions with Prime Minister V.P. Singh, President Ramaswamy Venkatarman and other Indian leaders, the official said.

Arafat's schedule also include a visit to the eastern port city of Calcutta to meet Nobel laureate Mother Teresa.

He will be awarded the 1988 Jawaharlal Nehru award for international understanding. (UPI)

100 injured, 12 missing in storm: A storm in northern Bangladesh left 100 injured, 12 missing and many homeless, police and news reports said on Saturday.

Friday night's storm damaged more than 1,000 mud-and-straw houses in Mymensingh and Manikganj districts, according to a government-owned Bengali-language newspaper, the Dainik Bangla. (AP)

China's first woman general dies: Li Zhen, a long march veteran and China's first woman general died March 11 at the age of 83, an official daily said on Saturday.

Li was promoted to major-general in 1955 and until 1988 was the only woman general in the People's Liberation Army, the China daily said. With her death, the 3.5 million-member PLA is believed to now have four women generals. (AP)

Diplomatic offensive continues: Bulgaria and South Korea have established diplomatic ties and agreed to begin economic and technical cooperation, the state BTA news agency reported on Friday.

South Korean Foreign Minister Choi Ho-Joong and his Bulgarian counterpart Boiko Dimitrov also pledged to encourage investments and exchange scientific results and information, the report said. (AP)

Soviet tanks thunder...

(Continued from Page 1)

quoted witnesses as saying there were 59 tanks and 50 other vehicles.

"There was absolutely no confrontation," said Julius Palunas, a spokesman for the Lithuanian legislative press office. Palunas said he had driven 10-15 kilometers (8-10 miles) north of downtown Vilnius to watch the column enter the Siaurus Niestelis military base.

The convoy set out from the city of Jonava, about 75 kilometers (45 miles) northwest of Vilnius between midnight (2300 GMT Friday) and 1 am (2300 GMT Friday).

Last evening, Soviet authorities ordered two US diplomats out of Lithuania, and official media reports charged that the republic's bid to establish complete independence was sliding toward anarchy.

US officials said their two consular officers had been given 12 hours to leave Lithuania.

The diplomats, Leningrad-based consuls Douglas Wake and Jon Purcell, said last night in Vilnius that

they heard nothing about the order for them to leave.

US presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater said the diplomats "will comply." But he also said the United States was "not given a reason" by Moscow for the expulsion.

He said the two officials were in Vilnius "on routine reporting and analysis" assignments and are "not spies."

The United States is protesting the ouster of US diplomats from Lithuania and President George Bush is cautioning the Soviets that force against the secessionists would be bound to backfire, US officials said.

Denmark's foreign minister said today "several" West European countries were to summon Soviet ambassadors tomorrow to deliver protests against Soviet sanctions in Lithuania.

A senior Soviet official said today the Kremlin would do everything in its power to avoid the use of force in Lithuania.

Disguised Vietnamese launching counter-offensive: rebels

CHAKRI, Cambodia, March 24. (AP): Front-line Khmer Rouge commanders, interviewed at a jungle base, claim Vietnamese troops secretly sent back into Cambodia are blocking a guerrilla advance on the country's second largest city.

The guerrilla officers alleged that elite Vietnamese forces, disguised in Cambodian uniforms have mounted a series of counterattacks in recent days against a wide swath of territory seized earlier by the Khmer Rouge.

The Phnom Penh government has denied that Vietnamese forces have returned to Cambodia following what was described as their total withdrawal last September.

The Khmer Rouge, one of three guerrilla

groups fighting the Hanoi-backed government in Phnom Penh, have taken control of hundreds of square kilometers (miles) of territory in the northwestern province of Battambang and threatened the capital in recent months.

"The Vietnamese reinforcements are a major obstacle to us capturing Battambang," division Commander Gen. Yat Thim told the Associated Press in a rare interview. "In February the Vietnamese sent many reinforcements to Battambang, and have mounted operations against us on many occasions this month."

The interview took place yesterday at a jungle base near the Thai border recently

captured from government forces. The explosions of mines being cleared and detonated by the guerrillas could be heard at short intervals.

The reporter returned to Thailand today. Yesterday, the Vietnamese army newspaper Quan Doi Nhan Dan rejected "groundless reports cooked up by the Khmer Rouge and spread by foreign mass media" that Vietnamese troops were again massing in Cambodia.

But Western analysts at the Thai-Cambodian border said they also believed Vietnamese troops were fighting in northwestern Cambodia. Estimates of the numbers involved varied.

Bingo Day 8
27 43 14 69

PEOPLE AND PLACES

OSLO, Norway: Ebe Wiesel, winner of the 1986 Nobel peace prize, will bring together other Nobel laureates, human rights champions and statesmen in a conference to evaluate the darker side of the spread of democracy.

Wiesel organised the conference to assess the risk of long-suppressed hatreds surfacing in societies that abruptly became free. The gathering, set for August 26-29, will be arranged with the Norwegian Nobel Institute, a Wiesel spokesman said Monday.

Among 35 leaders to accept invitations so far are 1983 peace prize winner Lech Walesa of Poland, French President Francois Mitterrand, Czechoslovak President Václav Havel, former US President Jimmy Carter and Harvard economist John Kenneth Galbraith.

Wiesel won the Nobel Prize for his writings examining the Holocaust. (AP)

NASHVILLE, Tennessee: Country music stars Emmylou Harris and Ricky Skaggs say a bill that would require warning labels on music encouraging sex, suicide or violence would have a chilling effect on songwriters.

"You might succeed in eliminating some of this trash out there... but it also is going to have to inhibit the good stuff," Ms. Harris, head of the Country Music Foundation, told the state senate judiciary committee Tuesday. "I think we'd be paying a really terrible price."

Skaggs, president of the Country Music Association, predicted the labelling would spread to books. (AP)

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania: Audrey Hepburn will team up with a symphony orchestra to tell the story of Holocaust victim Anne Frank. Miss Hepburn said she identified closely with the girl who retained innocent hopes for the world despite her own predicament.

Miss Hepburn was born the same year as Miss Frank and lived in Holland during the war. (AP)

\$27,500 for Trotsky letter

NEW YORK, March 24, (UPI): A historic letter written by Leon Trotsky to Vladimir Lenin about Soviet withdrawal from World War I was sold at an auction Thursday for \$27,500 to a Los Angeles bookshop owner.

Louis Weinstein of the Heritage Book Shop was the successful bidder for the rare manuscript at an auction at the Swann Galleries in Manhattan. He said he bought it "strictly for resale purposes."

Swann's pre-sale estimate of the letter's value was \$20,000 to \$30,000.

Another prime lot in the sale was an unpublished illustrated manuscript by Orson Welles that had been expected to bring as much as \$40,000.

However, there were no bids on the manuscript during the auction although a number of telephone bids, some of them from Europe, were received at the gallery after the sale was over.

NEW YORK: Faye Dunaway says her memorable portrayal of Jean Crawford in the 1981 film *Mommie Dearest* was one of the big mistakes of her career.

"I shouldn't have done the Crawford role," Dunaway said in the April issue of *Fame*. "My actor friends feel it was a real performance. But in fact, it was carried too far and it got too camp."

Her latest role is that of the wealthy but sterile wife of a military leader in *The Handmaid's Tale*. (AP)



Expedition

British Geoff Sommers, Japanese Keizo Funatsu, Frenchman Jean-Louis Etienne, American Will Steger, Soviet Viktor Bayarsky, and Chinese Dahe Qin (left-right) the six members of the Transantarctic expedition pose before the Elysee Palace on March 21 with French President Francois Mitterrand. Sam and Panda are the two huskies which took part in the expedition. The six men with six huskies crossed the Antarctic from Atlantic Ocean to the Indian Ocean, a total of 6,400 kms. (Reuters wirephoto)

Monkeys need entry papers for US

NEW YORK, March 24, (UPI): Monkeys arriving at John F. Kennedy international airport from overseas will need to have papers showing they're free of the deadly Ebola virus. New York state health officials said.

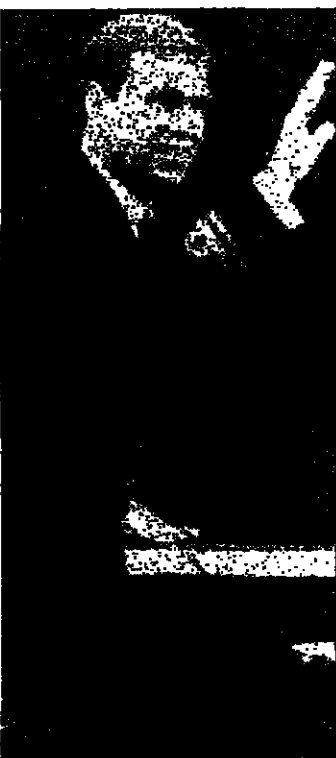
Observers likened the action to a de facto ban on the importation of monkeys for biomedical research. About 20,000 monkeys are imported annually into the United States, 80 per cent of them through New York City.

Effective yesterday, persons bringing monkeys of the cynomolgus, African green, and rhesus species from overseas must show proof the animals were quarantined for 60 days before shipment and tested negative for antibodies to filovirus, the state Health Department said Wednesday.

ARLINGTON, Texas: Karla Taylor specialises in painting skyscrapers dotted with majestic clouds. She does them on people's ceilings.

Stars and moons are all right; but no cars and no balloons. "I had a request to do balloons," she said. "I knew that was not going to look good. All you would see would be the bottom of the balloon."

Her parents might well be to blame for her artistic proclivities. (AP)



Andrew in time

The Duke of York waves to waiting photographers as he arrives at the Portland Hospital in London on March 23 in preparation for the birth of his second child. The Duchess of York went into the hospital yesterday afternoon. (Reuters wirephoto)

Workplaces in US are health hazards

WASHINGTON, March 24, (UPI): Nearly 1.5 million Americans are exposed to a health hazard in the workplace that they can't see, smell or hear. But it certainly can be felt.

Vibration may seem harmless. After all, at low levels it can be used to massage tense muscles. However, frequent exposure to the quivering and shaking of power tools may cause a debilitating "white finger" disorder that in severe cases may require finger amputation.

In a recent report on "hand-arm vibration syndrome," the national institute for occupational safety and health estimates half of the American workers using jack hammers, chain saws, grinders, drills and other vibrating power tools will develop the distressing condition.

The most obvious sign of the syndrome is the appearance of unusual white blotches on the fingers. At first, attacks of blanching, numbness or tingling are occasional and affect just the tips of one or more fingers.

If exposure to vibration is not reduced, attacks become more frequent and the numbness more persistent. Eventually, most fingers are affected along their entire lengths.

At the most severe stage, skin and tissue may die—forcing the amputation of fingers.

"The symptoms have appeared in two or three months in some people. Others, under

the same situation, may take 20 years to develop or they may never get it. What the difference is between people, nobody knows," said Austin Henschel, a physiologist at NIOSH's Cincinnati office and developer of the report.

Hand-arm vibration syndrome is caused by two factors—constriction of blood vessels in the hands and a degeneration of peripheral nerves. Henschel said in a telephone interview. Variables that influence the disease as it progresses include intensity of tool vibration, length of daily use, cumulative exposure and tool design.

Studies cited in the federal report the prevalence of the disorder varies widely, with anywhere from 6 per cent to 100 per cent of workers studied showing symptoms. The average rate was about 50 per cent.

Henschel issued one caution about interpreting such statistics. He said hand-arm vibration syndrome is virtually indistinguishable from Raynaud's phenomenon, a condition which affects about 5 per cent of the general population and is caused by exposure to cold or emotional stress.

Workers showing high rates of hand-arm vibration syndrome included pedestal grinders at foundries, jack-leg drill operators in mines and those using chipping hammers in quarries, steel plants and shipyard.



Hopes for Beatles reunion

Cynthia Lennon, John Lennon's first wife, poses in the hallway of the Plaza Hotel in New York, March 22. Cynthia said that she hoped a long-awaited Beatles reunion would

finally happen this year at Berlin's Brandenburg Gate. (Reuters wirephoto)

English boy hopes to break card record

ATLANTA, Georgia, March 24, (UPI): A terminally ill 7-year-old English boy is trying to break the world record for number of sympathy cards received, the Atlanta-based Children's Wish Foundation said.

Arthur Stein, president of the organisation, said his group is trying to help Craig Shergold of Carlsholton, England, break the world record of 1,000,265 cards held by Mario Morby of Midland, England.

Stein said the foundation has been receiving cards for Shergold, who suffers from brain tumours, for about five weeks. He said the group hopes to receive enough cards to

break the record by May 1. The cards will be shipped in bulk to the youth's home at the foundation's expense at the end of May, said Stein.

He said he did not know the number of cards that have been received, but the post office estimates that between 8,000 and 10,000 cards a day are coming in. Officials from the Guinness Book of World Records will count the cards to determine if they break the record, he said.

The foundation heard of Shergold's wish through a corporation that prefers to remain anonymous, Stein said.

Puppy

Saved from python fangs

JOHANNESBURG, March 24, (AP): A farm couple saved a seven-day-old puppy from the belly of a python when they heard faint yelping from inside the snake and forced it to cough up the pet, a newspaper reported yesterday.

Magda and Hennie Botha, interviewed by the Star newspaper, said they heard their dog barking frantically outside her kennel on the farm near Nelspruit, 25 kilometres (15 miles) west of the Kruger National Park. The python was curled up inside the kennel, and the couple said they heard faint yelps.

"I jumped forward, grabbed the snake by its neck and pulled it out," Botha said. While his wife held the snake's tail, Botha said he shook the head up and down and rubbed its bulging stomach. The reptile's jaws gaped, and out came the three puppies.

NEW YORK: Arista Records drew on some of the hottest names in the recording industry in marking its 15th anniversary with a concert billed as the largest single event to benefit AIDS victims.

Hall and Oates belted out their latest single, *Starting All Over Again*. Whitney Houston delighted the crowd with a charged rendition of *The Greatest Love of All* and Patti Smith sang a moody version of *A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall* at Saturday's five-hour concert in Radio City Music Hall.

Artists and guest hosts repeatedly reminded the enthusiastic crowd of their reason for attending, with Jennifer Holliday dedicating a song to Broadway director and playwright Michael Bennett who died of AIDS in 1987. (AP)

PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania: A high school biology teacher received a love bite from an amorous 175-pound (79-kilogramme) male dolphin.

Chuckles, the only Amazon River dolphin in captivity in North America, was in his reproductive stage when he bit the finger of zoo volunteer Nancy Sakach while apparently trying to pull her into his tank. Pittsburgh zoo officials said.

Ms Sakach, 32, received several stitches on her finger, but did not harbour ill feelings toward the dolphin. His natural instincts had just taken over, she said. (AP)

LILLE, France: About 30 anti-abortion protesters were led away by police Tuesday after forcing their way into the operating section of a hospital where abortions are performed.

About half the protesters shut themselves inside an operating room of Huxley Hospital and wrote anti-abortion graffiti on the walls while their comrades blocked the entrance to the room. (AP)

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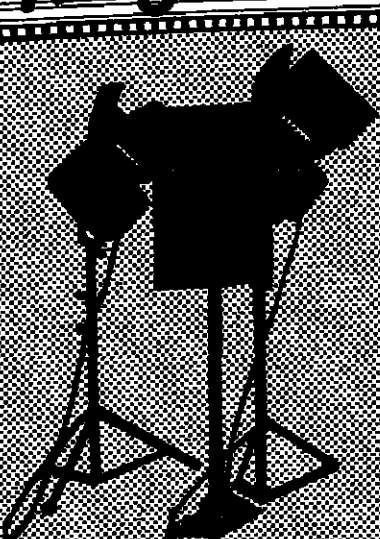
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INTERNATIONAL

Hungary polls may result in coalition

BUDAPEST, March 24, (Agencies): A week after a conservative landslide in East Germany, Hungary seals its transition from communist rule in Western-style democracy tomorrow with its first free national elections since 1945.

More than 1,600 candidates from 27 parties are competing in the parliamentary elections, which will be decided only after a second round slated for April 8, for 386 seats.

The outcome seems certain to be a coalition government excluding the ruling Socialist Party, founded last October to succeed the Communist Party, which was largely responsible for launching the

reforms in Hungary that also spread through East Europe.

Opinion polls suggest a close race for first place between the centre-right Hungarian Democratic Forum and the Alliance of Free Democrats, a liberal-social democratic party founded by dissidents who kept free debate alive under communism.

But the rural right-wing independent Smallholders' Party, a likely key to a coalition government, has gained ground fast by promises to return farmland seized by the Communist Party after it took power in the late 1940s.

"It is clear and unambiguous that we

smallholders are going to score a landslide victory," the party's legal officer and campaign manager Jozsef Torgyan told Reuters today, a day of campaign-free reflection before the Sunday vote.

"It will be impossible to be the leading power of the government," he said.

The Alliance and the Forum were more low-key, but both also expressed cautious confidence.

"Based on recent opinion polls, we think we will be the first party," Alliance executive Gabor Demszky said at a news conference. "But we are prepared for surprises."

Voting begins at six am (0400 GMT) and is due to close at most places 12 hours later, with the possibility of two-hour extensions where turnout is below 50 per cent.

Earliest results are expected late on Sunday evening.

Imre Pozsgay, who was the prime mover of political change in Hungary, faces certain defeat in Sunday's free elections—but he is prepared to play stoically the cards that history has dealt him.

"I have fallen between two stools, but I will get up from the floor. History will not end on March 25," the 56-year-old state minister said.



A girl cradles herself in the flag of Hungary's reborn Social Democratic Party.

Troops move into Kosovo

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia, March 24, (Reuters): Armoured cars rumbled into the outskirts of five towns in Yugoslavia's Kosovo province today after two days of clashes over a mystery illness afflicting 1,000 ethnic Albanians.

Witnesses said troops took posts around towns where ethnic Albanians had attacked minority Serbs and Montenegrins, charging that their relatives had been victims of a mass poisoning. At least 40 people have been hurt, two seriously.

Doctors have found no evidence of poisoning. Radio Belgrade said the situation was deteriorating in the province where 28 people were killed in ethnic riots in January and February.

The federal authorities boosted security by sending police reinforcements to Podujevo, the scene of the most violent clashes, as Kosovo's government ordered a police crackdown yesterday to restore order.

The Republic of Serbia, which controls Kosovo, has taken direct control of the police in Podujevo and Vucitrn, and a Serbian official said the republic would take similar action on Monday in whatever towns it deemed necessary.

Disturbances erupted when ethnic Albanians ran amok on Thursday after hundreds of their children complained of stomach cramps, nausea and breathing problems.

The southern province appeared relatively quiet today and no new cases of the illness were reported.

But the poison scare has prompted hysteria among the local population and spread fears of a new wave of ethnic unrest led by ethnic Albanians demanding more autonomy from Serbia.

Clashes between the majority Albanians and Serbs and Montenegrins broke out after more than 1,000 Albanian children and youths were rushed to hospital on Thursday complaining of nausea, stomach cramps and breathing problems.

Tanjung said ethnic Albanian workers were also claiming to have fallen ill with the mysterious disease and "most of the municipalities in the province reported the alleged poisoning."

Opposition leaders claim the symptoms were caused by poisoning with an unidentified chemical.

Some 4,000 ethnic Albanians staged a demonstration in Podujevo, on Thursday to protest against the alleged poisoning, which they said was an organised Serbian attack on them.

Some of the ethnic Albanians attacked Slavs during the demonstration, beating up at least 15 Slavs wounding one with a knife. Podujevo police intervened to head off a major clash.

A federal medical team yesterday found there was no initial evidence that the Albanian children had been poisoned or stricken by an infectious disease.

"The group of experts think that what happened could not be characterised as an epidemic of mass poisoning," the federal Health Ministry said in a statement.

Romania step to defuse tensions

BUCHAREST, March 24, (Reuters): Romania promised its restless Hungarian minority more access to education and television in their own language on Thursday in an effort to defuse ethnic tension.

Prime Minister Petre Roman met ethnic Hungarian leaders from Transylvania where three people were killed in rioting between Romanian nationalists and Hungarians on Tuesday.

He told them the Education Ministry would urgently organise the teaching of Hungarian at all levels of the school and university system.

Roman said communications would be improved so television programmes from neighbouring Hungary could be received in the central regions of Harghita and Covasna next to Tirgu Mures, centre of the unrest.

Despite the concessions, Hungarian leaders say the ethnic conflict in Transylvania could spread beyond Tirgu Mures.

Odon Bitaly, National Secretary of the Hungarian Democratic Union (HDU), accused the right-wing Romanian Nationalist movement Vatra Romanesca of fomenting trouble in Transylvania.

Bitaly said there was tension in the Harghita and Covasna areas and Satu Mare near the Hungarian border.

Tirgu Mures, guarded by tanks, troops and police, was quiet yesterday. Salvage squads removed burned out buses and debris from Tuesday's fighting between Vatra supporters and ethnic Hungarians.

Romania's worst outbreak of ethnic violence since World War Two has caused a rift with neighbouring Hungary which has demanded protection for the Hungarian minority.

The Bucharest government responded by accusing Hungary of inciting the clashes by making claims on Transylvania which belonged to the Austro-Hungarian empire until World War Two.

The government is embarrassed by the effect the violence could have on Romania's reputation abroad during its transition to democracy but has angered ethnic Hungarians by appearing to have favoured the Romanian majority.

Romanians outnumber ethnic Hungarians by four-to-one in Transylvania, the richest and best developed region of Romania. Fourteen ethnic minorities in Romania account for about five million of the 23 million population.

Vatra Romanesca was founded in Tirgu Mures after the revolution which toppled communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu last December, it claims three million members.

Be capitalists: US

Eastern Europe urged to embrace policy

BONN, March 24, (Reuters): The United States has urged Eastern European countries to embrace capitalism, saying they should become multi-party democracies and ensure respect for private property and free enterprise in their laws.

US officials made the appeal in a confidential paper, "Bonn principles for economic co-operation," distributed at a 15-nation East-West

economic conference here this week. Washington hopes the paper, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters, will form the basis of a communiqué from the three-week talks, which are an offshoot of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) grouping all European countries except Albania plus the United States and Canada.

A West European delegate said the document had been given a generally favourable reception, but was unlikely to be adopted by the conference without substantial amendments.

The US paper says participating states should share the objectives of "multi-party democracy based on free, periodic and general elections, the rule of law, respect for human rights, free and competitive markets and dynamic private enterprise."

It lists measures it says are essential for the development of a sound economy, including "full recognition and protection of rights of citizens to hold and use private property."

The paper also recommends making currencies convertible and privatising and deregulating industry.

The European Economic Community put forward its own proposals for a final document earlier in the week, calling for far-reaching reform of all aspects of commercial life in Eastern Europe.

Half of the four-page US document is devoted to the reform of countries of Eastern Europe, which it describes as "economies in transition."

It urges them to strengthen private enterprise and ensure economic activity does not involve forced labour, or discrimination against workers on political, ethnic, gender or religious grounds.

The head of the US delegation, Alan Holmer, said at the opening of the conference on Monday that the changes under way in countries moving from a command system to a mixed or free economy were difficult for everyone.



Lithuanian Vice-President Kazimieras Motieka (centre) and Virgilijus Cepaitis (right) a leader of the Sajudis independence movement, receive from a deputy speaker of the Polish Parliament, Teresa Dobielinska, a resolution of the Polish Parliament supporting the Lithuanian declaration of independence. (Reuters wirephoto)

Communist Party deeply split

Estonia discusses secession

MOSCOW, March 24, (Agencies): Estonia's deeply split Communist Party convened yesterday to discuss the republic's independence drive and possibility of the party's splitting with Moscow.

A draft programme presented to the party congress said the party supports "the independence of the Estonian state on the basis of the free expression of the people's will, with due account for processes taking place in the Soviet Union and Europe," the Soviet news agency Tass said.

However, the programme described the road toward that goal as "an arduous and controversial process that requires... legal foundation and the establishment of a solid economic and social basis."

It said Estonian independence should "proceed through negotiations between Estonia and the Soviet Union," Tass said.

In a report to the congress, Estonian party leader Vaino

Vyalys stressed the need for party reform and support for Estonian independence, said his secretary, Radio Moscow said.

He also criticised Lithuania's declaration of independence earlier this month. In remarks monitored by the British Broadcasting Corp. in London, Vyalys said the Estonian Communist Party "does not approve of all the political steps taken by the new Lithuanian parliament."

Lithuania's parliament declared the republic independent on March 11 after 50 years of Soviet rule. Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia were annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940.

The republic has entered into a tough war of nerves with the Kremlin. Moscow's latest measures included a series of military manoeuvres, a demand that firearms owned by private citizens and institutions be turned in to the military, a tight border control and a reported order telling foreign diplomats to leave the republic.

Soviet tanks rolled through Vilnius overnight and Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis today warned young men refusing to serve in the Soviet Army they may have to seek sanctuary in churches.

"We feel we are in an occupied country. A foreign army arrives and we do not know what it will do," Landsbergis told the Supreme Council several hours after 100 military vehicles passed on their way through the capital of the rebel republic.

Landsbergis' warning came amid signs of an escalation of what he described as a "war of nerves" waged by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev against Lithuania since it reasserted its pre-war independence on March 11.

Through half a century of international oblivion, Lithuania has maintained a diplomatic presence in the United States through a legation headquartered about 15 blocks up the street from the Soviet embassy.



Shevardnadze to become 'VP'

Shevardnadze to become 'VP'

KUWAIT, March 24, (Kuna): Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, who was elected president of the Soviet Union last week, will appoint Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze as his vice-president within the coming few days, a local daily said today.

Quoting informed sources, the newspaper said Shevardnadze will be replaced by prominent parliamentarian Yevgeny Primakov, who was Pravda's correspondent in Egypt during the sixties, is known for his support for restoring relations with Israel.

Twins in jail

CARDIFF, Wales, March 24, (AP): A convict who escaped from prison by swapping clothes with his identical twin was back behind bars yesterday — and so was his brother.

Anthony Litton had been halfway through a two-year burglary sentence at Cardiff prison South Wales when he walked out of prison Tuesday.

Police said he was caught in a friend's house 15 miles (24 kilometres) from the prison.

Rocard for Elysee

PARIS, March 24, (UPI): Aides of Prime Minister Michel Rocard were jubilant yesterday after President Francois Mitterrand was quoted as effectively designating the moderate Socialist as his intended successor to the Elysee Palace, dealing a severe blow to the hopes of rival Laurent Fabius.

Serge July, editor-in-chief of the left-leaning newspaper Liberation quoted Mitterrand on Thursday as saying in an exclusive interview that Rocard would be "the only socialist in a situation to carry it off," in the next presidential elections in 1995 if he could lead the party victoriously through general elections scheduled to be held in 1993.

Few political experts gave much credence to a half-hearted denial of the interview issued by the Elysee late Thursday.

Council of Europe debates ways of helping East bloc's democracies

LISBON, Portugal, March 24, (AP): Officials from the 23-nation Council of Europe debated yesterday ways of raising the institution's profile and helping Eastern Europe's fledgling democracies.

The idea to meet East bloc perestroika with a new look for the oldest postwar organisation working for European unity was presented by the Strasbourg-based council's secretary-general Catherine Lalumiere and its current chairman, Portuguese Foreign Minister Joao de Deus Pinheiro.

The council eventually could become a trans-Atlantic watchdog for human rights set out in the 1977 Helsinki accords, a

working paper suggested. It was presented at the start of a two-day special session with diplomats from seven East European countries.

Portuguese diplomats said most delegates appeared to support the suggestions, though some spoke out for creating new institutions within the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, the organisation that put forward the Helsinki accords.

Founded in 1949, the Council of Europe has been largely overshadowed by the more influential European Economic Community, a separate 12-nation trading bloc based in Brussels, Belgium.

But with the rush toward democracy in Eastern Europe and changes facing the European map with German unification, it has gained stature as the only European organisation flexible enough to adapt quickly, Ms Lalumiere said.

"Most delegates said it was ridiculous to create a new code and control mechanism, because one already exists," Ms Lalumiere told a news conference after the first day's meeting.

The council's 1950 Human Rights Convention already protects individual Europeans with a sophisticated commission and court mechanism, and its proponents argue it could be easily extended to

cover Eastern Europe and North America. Hungary, Poland, Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union already have acquired what council officials call "special guest status," and Bulgaria, East Germany and Czechoslovakia have applied.

Romania has made no applications and will not attend the Lisbon meeting. The meeting will be fully open to the Eastern officials only in its second session today.

Despite ethnic clashes in Romania and tensions between Lithuania and the Kremlin, Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Fr. Dienstbier said he was confident all Eastern European nationalities eventually would settle down peacefully.

Bulgaria arms trade: Bulgaria has been involved in international weapons trade, supplying arms to liberation movements and Third World and communist countries, a newspaper reported Friday.

In an interview with the official trade union newspaper Trud, Ivan Danyanov, the director of the state-run Kintex Enterprise, said that sales of military hardware abroad accounted for 55 per cent of the company's production. (AP)

Powell: danger not yet over: The top military officer in the United States on Friday injected a note of caution into the euphoria sweeping Eastern Europe, where democracy is spreading at a rapid pace.

"The world still remains a very unstable place, a dangerous place," General Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said after addressing a public forum. He told the meeting that while the United States should restructure its armed forces in light of world events and the diminished Soviet threat, the danger of conflict was not over. (Reuters)

Be loyal to socialism, rivals told: A senior Mongolian official said on Saturday new opposition parties should be loyal to socialism, one day after the country scrapped the Communist Party's monopoly of power.

Opposition groups accused the government of cheating on promises to demand the dissolution of parliament, mass protests to demand the dissolution of parliament, told a news conference that the country's first election law, passed as parliament finished a session on Friday, stipulated that politics and elections would be conducted on a socialist basis. (Reuters)

WMO celebrates anniversary: Professor Godwin O.P. Obasi, secretary-general of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) Friday highlighted the vital role played by the national meteorological and

many, which received heavy backing from West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats during the campaign.

The CDU and its allies favour quick unification and introduction of a free-market system.

Although the Alliance for Germany won the election, it does not have a majority in the 400-seat parliament and needs a coalition partner to ensure its initiatives will pass smoothly.

De Maiziere's CDU heads a three-party Alliance for Ger-

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Colombian nuns overcome with grief, weep over the coffin of slain presidential candidate Bernardo Jaramillo (Reuters wirephoto)

Escobar denies role in killing

BOGOTA, March 24, (Reuters): Fugitive Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar yesterday denied the government's contention that he was behind the assassination of leftist presidential candidate Bernardo Jaramillo.

Security was strengthened in the capital, Bogota, yesterday following demonstrations by protesters accusing the government itself of complicity in Jaramillo's murder. Riot police used tear gas and gunfire on Thursday to break up the demonstrations, and officials said at least one soldier was killed and four policemen were wounded by stone-throwing protesters.

A government communique released on Thursday accused Escobar, reputed head of the Medellin cocaine cartel, of hiring the teenage assassin who gunned down Jaramillo, candidate for the Patriotic Union Party (UP) at the main Bogota airport on Thursday morning.

"Why would I attack someone who has always shown himself to be in favour of dialogue with drug traffickers?" Escobar wrote in a letter to UP leader Diego Montaña Cuellar made public yesterday.

The government of President Virgilio Barco said the 16-year-old gunman was paid \$650 in advance by the Medellin cartel to

kill Jaramillo, who was en route to a Caribbean holiday with his wife.

"Colombian security forces have been able to establish with certainty that the attack was ordered by drug-trafficker Pablo Escobar," the National Security Council communique said.

Security forces said they had intercepted a communication between Escobar and an assassin, which tipped them off to the attack.

The 40-year-old Escobar, a high-living billionaire, is the cocaine trafficker most wanted for extradition to the United States.

Jaramillo, 35, died in a Bogota hospital two hours after being shot four times in the chest and stomach by the assassin firing a submachine gun, police said.

His wife threw herself on top of her wounded husband in a futile attempt to protect him.

The son of the man once known as the Bolivian "king of cocaine" was killed in a firefight with police who were looking for him in the wake of an attack on the home of a US drug agent, newspapers reported yesterday.

Roberto Suarez Levy, 31, was killed late Thursday in Santa Cruz, about 360 miles (560 km) southeast of La Paz, the newspapers said.

Contra guerrillas agree to disband

Major obstacle removed

TEGUCIGALPA, March 24, (Reuters): Nicaragua's Contra rebels agreed today to a plan to disband, removing a major obstacle to the peaceful transfer of power from the left-wing Sandinistas to a newly-elected, US-backed government.

Under the agreement, which was immediately hailed by outgoing Sandinista President Daniel Ortega in Managua, an estimated 6,000 Contras in Honduras would begin disarming immediately.

Another 6,000 inside Nicaragua, whom the Sandinistas have accused of increasing their attacks recently, would agree to a ceasefire and regroup in internationally supervised security zones, handing over their arms at a later date.

The demobilisation process begins today with the disarming of the force that still remains here in Honduras, said Antonio Lacayo, who represented the incoming government of Violeta Chamorro at talks on the eight-year-old insurgency.

The plan, signed by Lacayo, who is Chamorro's son-in-law, contra commander Oscar Sosa-barro and Roman Catholic Church leader and peace negotiator Cardinal Miguel Obando Y Bravo, also called for

special internationally supervised zones for armed Contras inside Nicaragua.

Ortega said on Friday he fully supported the agreement to begin disbanding the US-backed Contra rebels.

"As president of Nicaragua I fully support this accord. I believe it goes in the direction of achieving peace and eliminating the war that has caused so much suffering, so much harm to the Nicaraguan people," he told reporters at Managua airport where he met representatives of the church and the new government.

"I am going to give instructions immediately to the Foreign Ministry and the Defence Ministry to take steps to apply the letter of this accord," Ortega told an airport news conference. "It is possible that there won't be a single armed Contra in Nicaragua on April 25th."

"We hope that this accord will be accepted and respected by all members of the Contras who are in Nicaraguan territory and that we can save the Nicaraguan people from a bloodbath," he said.

Ortega said there were between 4,000 and 6,000 Contras inside Nicaragua preparing for a major military offensive for the days prior to the inauguration. The demobilisation accord

should put an end to any plans for an offensive, he said.

The head of the Contra negotiating team said that 12,000 rebels living in base camps in Yamales, Honduras, would be returning home along with 42,000 relatives.

No Sandinista officials attended Friday's talks.

Under the plan, the Contras still remaining in camps inside Honduras would be disarmed under the supervision of the United Nations and the organisation of American States peacekeeping forces by April 20, five days before Chamorro takes office.

To resolve the problem of the Contras inside Nicaragua, the agreement calls for a ceasefire to be verified by Obando Y Bravo and the UN and OAS peacekeeping groups.

Contra leaders said the rebels would remain in the zones until the internal situation in Nicaragua allowed them to turn over their weapons and return to civilian life.

In a statement that seemed likely to anger Sandinista supporters, the plan said the Chamorro government would provide humanitarian aid for the Contras in "recognition of the patriotic work of the Nicaraguan resistance."

Castro scoffs at Bush aid

HAVANA, March 24, (Reuters): Cuban President Fidel Castro yesterday scoffed at US President George Bush's offer to give aid to a democratically-elected government in Cuba.

"More crumbs," Castro said at a televised news conference in reply to a question about Bush's offer.

Bush told reporters in Washington earlier that the United States would happily provide aid to Cuba after free and fair elections were held there.

Castro said he understood Bush had said he was disappointed about his attitude in resisting pressure to change Cuba's one-party communist system.

"So Bush is disappointed with Castro... where does Bush get his illusions from about Cuba? ... He seems to be more disappointed than a spiteful girlfriend," the Cuban leader said.

The news conference with Cuban journalists was carried on state radio and television. Cuban officials said it was also beamed towards the United States.

The Soviet ambassador Yuri Petrov to Cuba said yesterday that improvement in Cuba's relations with the United States is the key to Moscow reducing its arms supplies to the Caribbean island.

"I think the most efficient way for us to reduce our arms supply to Cuba is for there to be an improvement in US-Cuban relations," Petrov said in an interview with Reuters and Worldwide Television News.

Schools may drop apartheid

SA to ease multi-racial ban

JOHANNESBURG, March 24, (Reuters): The South African government said yesterday it might ease the ban on multi-racial education in state schools next year.

Education Minister Piet Clase told parliament that some whites-only state schools might be allowed to take in pupils of other races in spite of current apartheid (race segregation) rules.

But he suggested these new pupils would have to adapt to the schools' type of instruction and traditions.

He said that alternatively, schools which wanted to become completely multi-racial might be given some financial help to become private.

In each case, around 90 per cent of parents would have to give their approval and each school would be able to pick the pupils of other races it admitted, he said.

At present South Africa's few existing private schools are allowed to admit pupils of all races, but rigid segregation in the state sector had been a fundamental tenet of apartheid.

The two tentative proposals, which have to be extensively aired before they are adopted, drew praise from the liberal opposition but provoked anger from the extreme right.

The liberal opposition Democratic Party saw the

proposed move as a watershed which, if implemented, would take the country irrevocably away from apartheid.

"It shows the (ruling) National Party is able to grow and progress," Democratic parliamentarian Rupert Lorimer said.

But the ultra-right Conservative Party, the main white opposition, reacted with outrage.

"This announcement has shocked South Africa," Conservative member of parliament Andrew Gerber declared.

"We say the minister should resign because he had misled the voters. This is the penultimate step towards full integration in education," Gerber added, calling on white parents to fight the measure.

Clase said he aimed to push the reforms through by the start of next year.

The government, which says it wants negotiations on power-sharing between black and white, has so far steadfastly refused permission for non-white pupils to enter white schools.

Clase said that despite the announcement, he would not revoke a recent decision to bar a coloured (mixed race) girl, Michelle Peters, from attending a white school near her home in Natal province.

South Africa in its annual budgets spends about five times more on each white pupil than on each black child.

Democrats bash Bush at party meeting

NEW ORLEANS, March 24, (Reuters): Democratic Party moderates took their gloves off yesterday and verbally punched President George Bush, charging him with an isolationist foreign policy and deception at home over his pledge against new taxes.

In an unusual series of back-streeted attacks, Democratic leaders meeting here said Bush showed timidity when boldness was needed to assist pro-democracy movements sweeping the communist world.

"We can't afford to sit back and assume that countries in Eastern Europe and central America will automatically become Western democracies," Texas Senator Lloyd Bentsen said in a keynote talk to 700 Democrats and businessmen meeting at the Democratic Leadership Council (DLC) of moderate party leaders here.

"The stakes are too high for hands-off, isolationist foreign policies," said Bentsen, who won high marks as the 1988 party's vice presidential nominee even though Bush defeated presidential candidate Michael Dukakis.

"I submit to you that this administration is wrong when it advocates our leadership role in the world today," Bentsen said. Similarly, Georgia Senator Sam Nunn, DLC chairman and a potential 1992 Democratic presidential contender, said, "America should be a player, not a spectator, in the drama of democratic revolution now unfolding around the world."

They led a series of assaults against Bush, whom Democrats generally have treated with kid gloves since he ranks as one of the nation's most popular post-World War Two presidents.

End fighting, US asks Liberians

MONROVIA, Liberia, March 24, (AP): US Ambassador James Bishop said an eastern rebellion is claiming an unprecedented number of lives in Liberia, and called for an end to the conflict that has caused 279,000 civilians to flee their homes.

There can be no victors in the fighting, which only can bring greater suffering to the people of this West African nation, Bishop said on Thursday as he prepared to end a three-year tour in Liberia.

"My government accordingly calls on all parties involved to avoid senseless violence, to forgive those at whose hands they have suffered, to co-operate with the United Nations, the Red Cross and other friends of Liberia in aiding the victims of the strife, and to resolve to make a greater effort together in peace."

His call came amid reports that the fighting, which died down last month following a Dec 24 rebel incursion aimed at ousting President Samuel Doe, has assumed ferocious proportions again.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Baker meets Savinbi: Secretary of State James Baker met Friday with guerrilla leader Jonas Savinbi to discuss a US-sponsored effort to arrange a ceasefire in the Angolan civil war. (UPI)

Blade in a box of biscuits: A Canadian cookie distributor said on Friday it was recalling a brand of US-made animal crackers after an 11-year-old girl found part of a knife blade in a box of biscuits.

Iran opens relations with Namibia: Iran established diplomatic relations with newly independent Namibia on Friday, following the signing of an agreement in Windhoek, the Namibian capital. (AP)

Cuban plane crashes on takeoff: Twenty people were injured when a passenger aircraft crashed and caught fire on takeoff from the Cuban city of Santiago on Friday, the official news agency Prensa Latina reported. (Reuters)

Car bomb kills one: Suspected leftist guerrillas exploded a car bomb in front of Peru's Economic Ministry in Lima on Friday night, killing a passer-by and wounding 25 other people, police said. (Reuters)

US nerve gas plan condemned: Protestant and Catholic church leaders in the Pacific condemned on Saturday a US army plan to bring its entire European stockpile of nerve gas to a Pacific Atoll for destruction. (Reuters)

Exxon captain's sentence suspended: The fired captain of the Exxon supertanker that caused the worst oil spill in US history was given a suspended sentence on Friday but was ordered to spend 1,000 hours cleaning up Alaska beaches fouled by the spill and to pay up to \$50,000 in restitution. (Reuters)

Censorship rejected: President George Bush said on Friday that some government-funded art exhibits contained filthy, blasphemous and sacrilegious material, but rejected censorship of art. (Reuters)

TV Marti could backfire: Cuba has the capacity to disrupt radio broadcasts in more than half the United States if the two countries go to electronic war over TV Marti, experts said on Friday. (Reuters)

Nine still missing: Nine crew members remained missing and were presumed drowned on Friday after a fishing vessel capsized and quickly sank in the frigid Bering Sea, the US Coast Guard said.

Air disasters kill more in 1989

MONTREAL, March 24, (Reuters): The number of passengers killed in air disasters last year rose 13 per cent from 1988, but the number of passenger deaths jumped to 825 from 729, said the UN body, which oversees international civil aviation.

ICAO said there were 14 recorded attacks last year on passenger aircraft, resulting in 279 deaths. In 1988, 12 attacks on aircraft killed 300 people.

Child care of paramount importance: Nisif

Children's club at Mubarak Hospital

DIRECTOR of Mubarak Al Kaber Hospital, Younis Al Nisif, stated that child care is accorded paramount importance in all advanced countries and added that child care should be the responsibility of parents and school authorities along with all government establishments including hospitals and health centres.

The official said that children who are patients pass through different psychological and mental levels during the

period of hospitalisation. These effects are mainly caused by the child being away from the family atmosphere and feelings of loneliness.

Permanent communications between the Social Service Department at Mubarak Al Kaber Hospital and the Children Entertainment Department proved that children entertainment has a positive role in alleviating a lot of psychological pressures on children at the hospital. The Social Service Department at the hospital has instituted a children's

club at the ninth floor of the hospital and appointed a special supervisor to distribute educational books and related material among children, Nisif said.

He added that the club contains a religious corner, including a small mosque for children and an educational corner which is furnished to give children the feeling that they are inside a school. A teacher was appointed to assist children to follow their lessons while hospitalised. There is also a talent corner including

colouring a paper cutting, the mental corner to serve the mental skills of children and finally the gifts distribution corner established to encourage children to become members of the club.

He added that special donations were made by Kuwait Finance House, Zakat House and Patients Care Fund to cover costs of the club project. On the other hand, Kuwait University Arts College has supervised the project to ensure it complies with modern educational methods and standards.



Pakistan Day

Kuwait's Minister of State for Service Affairs, Essa Al Mazidi second right (top left picture) watches Pakistani Ambassador Zahid Saeed cut the cake on Pakistan Day, celebrated on Friday. Also seen are Dr Javed Iqbal (left), former chief justice of Pakistan, Mrs Iqbal-Mrs Saeed and guests. Below left some of the Pakistani women who attended the reception.

On Friday morning, Saeed hoisted his country's flag (above) at the Pakistan embassy. Picture shows Pakistani diplomats and Pakistani soldiers deputed to the Kuwaiti Army after the flag hoisting ceremony.



Upjohn Market Regain for Women with Hair Loss

The Upjohn Company (Middle East) begin marketing Regain topical Solution (two per cent minoxidil) for women with common female baldness.

In most Middle East Countries Regain has been available for more than two years for the treatment of male pattern baldness and Stabilisation of hair loss.

Upjohn recently completed clinical studies examining the safety and efficacy of Regain in women. A total of 653 women were enrolled in trials at ten medical centres in Europe and 11 centres in the United States. Preliminary analysis of the results of these trials indicates that in women, as in men, there was a significant increase in hair growth in Regain-treated patients, compared with those using placebo.

"We're pleased to now make Regain Topical Solution available to women with pattern hair loss. Our clinical trials indicate that, although it's a treatment and not a cure, Regain may offer hope to many of the women who must deal with this condition," said Ihsan Iqbal, Upjohn Manager — Kuwait & Gulf.

Regain is currently available in most countries of the world including — USA, England, Belgium, France, Canada, in addition to Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, U.A.E. Muscat, and Saudi Arabia.

Hair Loss in women is often due to androgenetic alopecia, the same condition that affects many men. In women, as in men, this type of hair loss is caused by a combination of three factors: age, heredity and the presence of the hormone testosterone.

Often men with male pattern baldness are eventually left with only a horseshoe-shaped fringe of hair. In women, hair loss is more likely to be as a generalised thinning over the top of the head.

The Upjohn Company is a world-wide, research-based manufacturer and marketer of human health-care products and services, agronomic and vegetable seeds, animal-health products and pharmaceutical and specialty chemicals. The Company's headquarters are in Kalamazoo, Michigan, USA.

Shamlan returns from UK

LONDON, March 24, (Kuna): Kuwait Higher Education Minister Dr Ali Abdulla Al Shamlan and the accompanying delegation left here yesterday en route home following a week-long visit.

Dr Shamlan held two rounds of talks here with the British Education Minister John MacGregor on ways through which the UK can help implement programmes of Kuwait to promote polytechnic and higher education.

Also tackled means of boosting bilateral relations in cultural and educational spheres, a source at the delegation told Kuna, adding that Dr Shamlan also met with a number of senior British officials and academics for the purpose.

The delegation, comprising Kuwait University Rector Dr Shuaib Al Shuaib, Director of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, Dr Abdullah Al Mehallan and cultural councillor at Kuwait Embassy in London visited a number of British educational institutions and met students studying in the UK.

The source said Dr Shamlan has extended invitations to a number of officials at the British higher education institutions to visit Kuwait to get informed on education and training programmes.

Integrated training strategy at Paaet

THE deputy director-general of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training Hmoud Al Mudaf has said that the Paaet has developed an integrated strategy to develop the training sector at all levels.

He told a local daily that an all-round study of the existing problems at the training sector has of late been submitted to the Paaet board of directors, aiming at taking all possible measures to optimise the level of performance and output at this sector, in line with the national importance and government support of this vital facility.

He said that the study shed light on the laxity of legislations and regulations enforced at the training sector, particularly in connection with the role assigned to the private sector and the insufficiency of incentives offered trainees during and after training.

He added that other problems tackled by the study included the need to change the existing social frown on manual work, the failure of current training programmes to meet the requirements of the local labour market, and the lack for adequate number of training facilities. Mudaf pointed out that the recommendations adopted by the study included the formation of three main workteams, one to be concerned with proposing the needed amendments and additions to the existing regulations with the intention of stepping up the training sector, the other consisting of representatives from the Civil Service Commission, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, the Ministry of Planning the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry to represent the private sector and the third to lay down plans and work schemes at the state level to bring about the needed favourable social support of manual work through the support and help of the public media.

He said that no new policy had been adopted for admission into the Paaet's different colleges and institutes, but a great emphasis had been laid on the need to ensure that the policy on admission to be adopted must tally with that enforced at Kuwait University, adding that a new attempt would be made to operate a selective system of admission whereby students would be able to join colleges and institutes that could best polish their talents and improve their skills.

He pointed out that Paaet still enforced a policy whereby 15 per cent of the total non-Kuwaiti students enrolling at its different facilities would be accepted, stressing that efforts were being exerted to improve the level and competence of existing training instructors, which included among other things the formulation of standards needed to systematically promote qualified instructors based on competence and performance levels.

He said that these measures would come to light as of the next academic year and that the related studies would be completed by the end of the current month.

Saudi sheikh being treated at US hospital

MINNEAPOLIS, March 24, (AP): A Saudi Arabian religious leader has taken over several rooms on the fifth floor of University of Minnesota Hospital, where he is being treated, according to a report published Friday.

The Minneapolis hospital released a statement Thursday evening explaining that a foreign citizen received a kidney transplant from a "living related donor."

While the patient was not identified, "it undoubtedly is Imam Shariif Sheikh Dr Shamsuddin Al Fassi, 62, who is chairman of the Alsouffi, a Muslim religious organisation," reported the St Paul Pioneer Press dispatch.

Shamsuddin Al Fassi arrived from the Middle East last Friday, the same day a hospital physician revealed that a closely guarded unnamed patient from the Middle East had been admitted for a kidney transplant, the newspaper reported.

Details of the patient's visit were withheld

for security reasons because threats had been made on his life, the newspaper also said.

"The transplant went well and both patients are in excellent condition," Dr John Najarian, head of the university's surgery department, said in a news release Thursday night. "It has always been, and always will be, the policy of the University of Minnesota that cadaver organs are not given to foreign citizens. This policy is not followed at all US medical centres," the news release continued. It added the patient's name and additional information would not be released.

That Shamsuddin Al Fassi was a patient at the hospital was confirmed by Bander Bin Sultan, an advisor and spokesman for the sheikh's family.

Security

The sheikh's entourage numbers more than 200 and has taken over three floors of a Minneapolis hotel and also several rooms at the hospital. Some of the entourage is ensconced at other twin cities hotels for security

reasons, Sultan said.

The entourage includes Shamsuddin Al Fassi's son, Mohammed Al Fassi, 31, who is far better known than his father. In the early 1980s, Mohammed Al Fassi, who calls himself a prince but is not a member of the Saudi Arabian royal family, bought a mansion on a five-acre (two-hectare) plot in Beverly Hills.

Also accompanying Shamsuddin Al Fassi is his son-in-law, Prince Turki Bin Abdul Aziz, who is Saudi Arabia's deputy minister of aviation and defence and a brother of Saudi King Fahd, Sultan said.

Several off-duty police officers from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis and St Paul police departments are providing security for the entourage during Shamsuddin Al Fassi's hospital stay. Some police officers said they were told Shamsuddin Al Fassi could be in the twin cities as long as three months.

Minneapolis and St Paul's officers told the St Paul newspaper that the Saudis have other security personnel.

Balanced US approach imperative for peace: Saud

Kuwaiti envoy addresses ME experts

HONOLULU, March 24, (Kuna): Sheikh Saud Naser Al Sabah, Kuwait's ambassador to the United States, has stressed the need for the Bush administration to continue pressing Israel to respond positively to the current peace moves "if any progress is to be made in the near future."

The Kuwaiti diplomat, noting the more "serious" and more "balanced" approach by the Bush administration to the peace process when compared to its predecessor, said the Israeli response will be governed, to a great extent, by Washington's "staying the course" and as spelled out by President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker in recent months.

The ambassador of Kuwait made these and other wide-ranging comments on the peace process during a luncheon address Thursday before the Council of Foreign Relations of Hawaii. Foreign policy experts, academics and businessmen from the islands were among those attending.

Sheikh Saud, in an initial statement and later responding to intensive questioning on current developments in Washington and in Israel, said the Arabs were more optimistic as a result of the recent changes that had been noticeable in American policy since President Bush assumed office.

He made reference to President Bush's statements on Jerusalem in recent weeks and his refusal to succumb to pressure by Israel and its lobby "as an encouraging sign of his more balanced American approach to the problems of the region."

Sheikh Saud also cited statements made by Secretary of State James Baker before Congress to the effect that the US was opposed to Israel's settlement activity and that American aid

should not be used for housing Soviet Jewish emigrants in these occupied territories.

The ambassador noted the fact that the Bush administration's hand has been strengthened by the drop in Israel's popularity among American public opinion and in the international community, which in turn has added to the pressure on those congressmen who are noted for their unflinching support of Israel to slightly amend their positions.

"Americans are starting to realise that what the pro-Israeli lobby is advocating and pushing for is not necessarily in America's interests," Sheikh Saud emphasised.

In the past, he said, it would have been unheard of for someone with the stature of the Republican minority leader Bob Dole to come out with a proposal calling for a five per cent cut in aid to Israel, among other countries.

But equally significant — and reflecting the changing tide against Israel — Dole's stance received wide-spread support in the US congress. "These changes have definitely strengthened the Bush administration's hand in maintaining the pressure on Israel," the Kuwaiti ambassador said.

Sheikh Saud Naser Al Sabah stressed the fact that most of the credit for the recent changes in Israel, in the US, and the international community in general must be given to the Palestinian intifada.

"It is the Palestinian uprising that sparked off the whole chain of developments in the last two years," the ambassador told his audience.

Historic decisions taken by the Palestinian leadership under the PLO umbrella in Algiers and Geneva must be given credit for starting all the recent peace

moves, for catching the attention of the US government, and also for causing the split that is currently being witnessed in Israel, according to Sheikh Saud.

"It is unfortunate that Israel has not responded positively to these Palestinian decisions," he asserted.

Asked specifically by one Middle East expert if he believed the Labour Party will be able to set up a government in Israel, Sheikh Saud said:

"To a great extent, it will depend on whether the Bush administration will continue to put pressure on Israel like it has been doing in recent months or not. But there is no doubt about the need to maintain the current momentum going."

Stressing that he did not want to go into details on Israeli domestic politics, the Kuwaiti envoy noted the fact that the Israeli Labour Party has been more "susceptible" to some of the ideas that have been put forward by the Bush administration in recent months than the Likud Party.

The ambassador was asked extensively about the whole controversy surrounding the mounting Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel.

He responded by emphasising that the Arabs were not opposed to the right and freedom of Soviet Jews to emigrate to Israel.

"But we oppose their settlements in the occupied territories," Sheikh Saud explained. "And we are totally opposed to the idea that their settlements should be at the expense of the Palestinian people."

The ambassador further voiced the insistence by the Arab countries that it is imperative for the United States to declare these settlements "illegal" in addition to being an obstacle to peace.

404 embraced Islam in '89

By Sayed Usman

THE Ministry of Justice announced that 404 persons embraced Islam in Kuwait last year, registering an increase of 26 per cent over 1988. Sources further pointed out that a total of 3,378 persons embraced Islam during the last ten years and attributed this to mixing of non-Muslims with Muslims in society.

Nationality wise, last year 312 Asians, 31 Arabs, 26 Europeans, 22 Americans and 6 Africans embraced Islam last year. The Arabs were Jordanians, Lebanese, Egyptians, Syrians and Iraqis, including five Kuwaiti nationals. The Europeans were Britons, Germans, Yugoslavs, French and Romanians. Sources further said that 78 per cent were Christians, 10 per cent Buddhists, 9.7 Hindu, 0.7 per cent Druze and others were ethnics.

Meanwhile the director of the computer centre at Kuwait's Ministry of Justice Mohammed Al-Roumi was quoted as saying that about 10,108 marriages were concluded in Kuwait in 1989.

The official said in an interview that out of these (4,851) marriages were between Kuwaitis, in (1,050) marriages the husband was Kuwaiti and the wife was a foreigner, in 708 marriages the wife was Kuwaiti and the husband was non-Kuwaiti and the remaining estimated at (3,499) marriages were among expatriates.

He disclosed that out of these couples about 536 are working in the educational field. Meanwhile, the official said that the juveniles cases in Kuwait were in excess attributing this phenomenon to the absence of family control, and the lack of religious and educational awareness.

He disclosed that the relevant statistics showed that the juvenile cases reported during 1989 had amounted to 2,515 cases compared to 1,656 in 1984.

From the courts

Man acquitted of theft charge

THE Criminal Court acquitted a man accused of stealing from a boutique at a commercial complex in Kuwait City.

The court was told that a CID man claimed that during his work late at night at the complex, he saw the door of the boutique and perceived a man hidden behind the clothes displayed. He closed the door and called on police.

However, the defendant succeeded in breaking the door and making good his escape. A search of the scene revealed a pair of shoes which the CID claimed to belong to the accused.

The defendant in his defence testified that he was sick at the time of the incident and was all alone at home. Further, he proved that the shoes could not fit him. Additionally, he claimed that the CID could not have identified him positively as it was dark.

Taking all these factors, the court released the defendant.

FIVE employees were sentenced to five years each in prison to be followed with deportation for detaining and assaulting their employer in his business premises, a local daily reported.

The court was told that the accused were working at the premises situated at Abu Halifa and were accused of stealing KD300 from the victim.

A neighbour testified that he heard screams coming from the premises and on investigation found that the victim had been detained in the bathroom by the accused.

The court in its deliberations acquitted the accused of the charge of theft for lack of evidence, but convicted them on the basis of the evidence of the witness and the facial injuries of the victim.

THE Criminal Court sentenced three defendants accused of possessing unlicensed arms, stealing two Mercedes cars and forgery to various terms in jail.

The first defendant identified as Qamar and the second as Gholoum were each sentenced to seven years in jail to be followed by deportation, while the third identified as Falah was sentenced to five years, also to be followed by deportation.

The court was told that the second defendant Gholoum had stolen a Mercedes car with Saudi plates and the theft was reported to the Salimiya police station.

The first defendant stole a stamp and car book from Hawalli Traffic Department in addition to stealing a Kuwaiti car plate from the Haraj and forged an illegal car book stamped with the stolen articles.

Investigations revealed that the third defendant had also stolen a Mercedes car and was involved with the other two accused in getting the papers and licence plate forged.

THE criminal court has decided not to issue a sentence against a man, (father of seven), charged with using his telephone line to harass and seduce a woman, and ordered him to submit a written pledge to keep good conduct for a period of six months.

The court heard that the man used to call the victim, daughter of his friend, during the absence of her husband trying to persuade her to indulge in an illicit affair with him.

The victim, fed up with his incessant attempts, decided with her husband to set a trap for him and had the police watch her residence. On the day the suspect decided to call on her supposedly after her husband had gone to work.

The man told the court that he came to visit his friend whom he learnt was not feeling well and that he had been framed. Due to a lack of evidence to prove his innocence, the court adopted its above-mentioned sentence.

THE criminal court has sentenced a man to three years in jail with hard labour and subsequent deportation, after charging him with forgery.

The court heard that the man, used to work as a clerk at a local company. Before he was fired for misconduct he stole a blank sheet of paper signed by the manager and wrote on it that the manager owed a certain sum of money.

The manager told the court that due to his frequent absence and travels he had to leave a few papers in his office signed to be filled for processing the company's transactions with the local government agencies, as his signature was recognised as representing the company's owner on an official basis.

He added that he had of late fired the suspect on grounds of bad behaviour, so he might have planned to do that as an act of revenge.

Handwritten text in Arabic script, likely a signature or note.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amir receives

KUWAIT, March 24, (Kuna): HH the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah today received HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah.

HH also received Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad on the occasion of his return home after participating in Namibia's independence celebrations.

New envoys

KUWAIT, March 24, (Kuna): The ambassadors of Britain and Ireland are to present their credentials to HH the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah tomorrow.

A ceremony will be held on the occasion at Bayan Palace at 11:00 am.

Erosion conference

KUWAIT, March 24, (Kuna): The Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) has invited scientific institutions to contribute studies and papers to the KISR-sponsored conference on erosion, planned for April 27-30, 1991.

KISR said in a statement today, the conference, the second of its kind here, is being organised in co-operation with the Ministry of Electricity and Water, the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science, Kuwait University, the Kuwait National Petroleum Corporation and a number of other organisations.

The gathering is expected to bring together some 300 participants from Arab, Gulf and international scientific agencies.

The conference will discuss the adverse effects of erosion on equipment, against the backdrop of the heavy cost the industrialised and developing nations pay to overcome erosion-related problems.

The four-day debate will mainly feature modern anti-erosive techniques, and how to fight the phenomenon in the petroleum and petrochemical industries.

Venezuelan envoy

KUWAIT, March 24, (Kuna): Governor of Kuwait City Sheikh Jaber Al Abdullah Al Jaber Al Sabah today received at his office Venezuela's Ambassador to Kuwait José de Jesús Osio.

During the courtesy visit, Sheikh Jaber and his guest exchanged views on issues of common interest.

Khaled returns

ABU DHABI, March 24, (Kuna): Minister of the Kuwaiti Amir Diwan Affairs Sheikh Khaled Al Ahmed left Abu Dhabi for Kuwait yesterday at the end of a two-day visit during which he conveyed a message from His Highness the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad to UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayyan.

The message dealt with fraternal ties between the two Gulf countries and issues of common interest, according to an official report.

Quran contest

KUALA LUMPUR, March 24, (Kuna): Kuwait's reciter Ahmad Al Tarrabulsi was among 11 contestants who took part in yesterday's session of the Malaysian-organised international Quran reading competition at the national stadium here.

Ahmad, 43, who was champion in the 1986 contest and third in last year's contest, was well received by the audience.

He told Kuna later: "I have done my best for Kuwait."

Other contestants (Qaris) taking part were Mohamad Al Jounadi of Morocco, Haji Daud Chai Man (Malaysia), Ibrahim Dhallo (Mali), Hafiz Mohammed Abdullah Kalem (India), Hafiz Rahmane Sow (Senegal), Hassan Moorodeen Ozeegbe (Hossein (Mauritius), Daouda Conda (Guinea), and (Qaris) Hajah Kamsiah Amin (Singapore), Tima Ridhwani Tahir (Tanzania) and Sittie Hadji Nor (the Philippines).

Fourteen more contestants have yet to take part in the five-day contest tomorrow.

Yugoslav camps

KUWAIT, March 24, (Reuters): Yugoslavia signed a contract today to build training bases for the 20,000-strong Kuwaiti army, the official Kuwait News Agency said. It gave no details.

Kuwait last year ordered an undisclosed number of Yugoslav M-84 tanks in what diplomats described as a debt-settling deal. The tank is a Yugoslav version of the Soviet-designed T-72.

Pak embassy

THE Consular Section of the Embassy of Pakistan will remain closed on March 25, 26, and 27, 1990 on account of shifting of the Chancery to its new premises in Jabriya.

It will resume work at the new premises on March 28, 1990 at the following address:
Villa No. 7
Block No. 11
Plot No. 5
Jabriya.

Wheat cultivation vital for self-sufficiency in food

Fish wealth being preserved

THE wheat cultivation experiment in Kuwait represents a national aspiration and is a overwhelming response to the Amir's desire to launch various agricultural development projects, according to farmer Abdul Wahhab Al Naqqi.

In an interview with a local daily, Naqqi said that although wheat cultivation in Kuwait is still to enter the "take off stage" as compared to the other neighbouring countries such as Saudi Arabia and Iraq, the importance of reclaimed areas for the cultivation of this vital and strategic material cannot be underestimated. It is a vital step in the march forward towards self-sufficiency in food resources.

He expressed hope that the lands allocated for wheat cultivation will be increased in light of the readiness demonstrated by wheat farmers in Kuwait to enhance the output and

achieve appreciable production levels.

Meanwhile, Naqqi confirmed the importance of adopting irrigation system towards the development of wheat cultivation and commented that this system had proved successful at his farm in Wafra.

Naqqi who is an agronomist said that tissue cultivation process in Kuwait is comparatively in its formative stages and it will need several years to ascertain whether this experiment is viable or not.

Palms

However, he confirmed the importance of palm cultivation in Kuwait and pointed out that these types of trees are suitable to Kuwait's climate and soil and economically speaking, it will be better than any other type of trees. He said that this kind of agriculture is not new to Kuwait as it was well-known in the Arab arena in general since the old

Speaking of the support extended by the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources, Naqqi said that the level of support has dropped from the time that the Industrial Bank of Kuwait was empowered to undertake the distribution of support in the form of agricultural credits which has been termed as the "agricultural portfolio."

The transfer of agricultural responsibility from one body to another had a negative impact on farmers, he said.

Elucidating, he said that these negative aspects are reflected on farmers through prolonged procedures adopted by the bank to decide whether the applicant is entitled to agricultural credit or not.

Pillars

On issues of priority, in the agricultural sectors, he said that the fish culture in Kuwait constitutes an impor-

tant economic source that should be transferred to an agricultural industry to be deemed as one of the country's economic pillars.

He said that he has begun just such an experiment at his farm at Wafra area and is looking forward to developing this culture in the future and hopes that he can be provided with adequate land for this purpose.

Naqqi expressed his confidence in the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources towards developing the agricultural sector and for upgrading the capabilities of the agricultural economic sector which constitutes an integral part of the state's policy.

Meanwhile, director of the Fish Resources Control and acting deputy director of Fish Wealth Department, Dr Haidar Murad stressed that preparations by the authority in order

to protect fish wealth will generate positive results in the future.

He further said that preparations have positively affected protection of fish resources from illegal fishing methods. He added that rules and regulations issued during the past lowered the number of fishing boats inside Kuwaiti waters in addition to a special policy organising the professional sector which prompted the preservation of fish resources, which he said was priceless.

Development

Dr Murad indicated that the new directions on the development of fish wealth in the country includes establishing a multi-purpose port in order to ensure control over Kuwaiti waters. The authority has also established a fish farm to produce fish types commonly demanded by residents.

He added that the period indicated by the tenth Kuwait symposium organised by Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research for shrimp fishing extends from May until the end of August of each season. He said that such recommendations are important for the preservation of fish wealth and development of reserves.

Regarding consumption rates of fish in GCC states, Dr Murad stated that according to a study, Kuwaitis consume the least amount of fish. The study on consumption shows that a Kuwaiti individual consumes nearly 5.9 kilograms of fish every three years, on the other hand the rate increases to 12.4 in Qatar, 9.9 in Saudi, 18.5 in Bahrain and 18.8 kilograms in UAE.

The studies indicated that Kuwaiti waters have huge quantities of fish in addition to shrimp.



Farewell Samad

Arab Times News Editor Atiqus Samad is leaving Kuwait after 12 years. AT editorial staff hosted a luncheon to say farewell to Samad and his wife, Zebun Rahman, who are leaving for London next week. Samad was selected from 2,600 applicants by the BBC's Bengali language service. We'll miss him but we wish him all the best. Picture shows (seated, L-R): Jadranka Porter, Nirmala Janssen, Lima Khalafawi, Mrs

Samad, Samad, Diana Abou Haider, Theresa Jose. (Standing, L-R): Peter D'Souza, Abdul Razak, Shahida Azizuddin, Fathima Ahmed, Z.A. Rajput, Yawar Maqsood, Omar Hassan, Hakimuddin Lokhandwala, George Cherian and M.C. Bose. Samad (right) pleased as punch after the luncheon.

No price hike during Ramadan: Sawarej

NO price increases in food stuffs will be permitted during the holy month of Ramadan, according to Saad Al Sawarej, chairman of Union of Co-operative Societies.

The official said that no price increases will be considered during this auspicious occasion, but commented that any request for a decrease will be promptly approved. He added that in a move designed to ensure that prices remain stable, the union in conjunction with co-operatives have begun importing Ramadan commodities two months ago in quantities that are deemed sufficient to meet demand.

Commenting on the increase in prices of some commodities at co-operative societies recently, Sawarej said that the union mainly concentrates on protecting prices of items that are commonly used during Ramadan. However, prices of some other commodities might be increased due to the change in prices of currencies or increase in freight costs or increase in prices on

commodities from the point of origin.

The latter is aptly reflected in the prices of dairy products at the point of origin due to the governments of these countries lifting the subsidies granted to owners of farms. These prices have increased by about 15 to 20 per cent, the official said and added that Kuwait is an open market that imports everything and consequently an increase in price of dairy products at the co-operative is a natural phenomenon.

The official said that supermarkets at co-operatives during the holy month of Ramadan will be from 8:00 am to 5:30 pm and from 7:30 pm to 11:30 pm.

Meanwhile, the deputy chairman of the union, Talaq Al Haim has announced that the union has set measures in motion to ensure stability of prices and to unify them at all co-operatives. The union has reached agreements with merchants and importers to maintain the level of

prices for a certain period that has been agreed upon with the price committee of the union.

On diversifying the activities of the co-operative societies, Haim called on the Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) to study the feasibility of a proposal permitting co-operatives to manage some petrol stations. He said that co-operatives are established with the basic aim of providing different services to customers and myriad services are offered by co-operatives in other parts of the world.

The official said that the union supports a proposal to merge some co-operatives to develop their services and believed that it is practical to merge small co-operatives which are in close proximity with their larger counterparts. Such mergers will reduce the administrative burden, introduce modern equipment and basically provide more cost effective services to customers.

Cancer may be linked to diet, says physician

Change in eating patterns suggested

By Diana Abou Haider
Arab Times staff

SCIENTIFIC research during the past two decades has shown specific and significant correlations between diet and certain cancers, said Dr Mohamed Abdulla, professor of medicine at University of Lund, Sweden.

Abdulla, who visited Kuwait last week to discuss a proposal for carrying out a research study with Kuwait University's Faculty of Medicine on diet and cancer risk in the general population of Kuwait, added that it has been reported that about 30 per cent of all cancer deaths may be attributed to diet.

"The quantity and quality of a normal diet may render an individual more susceptible to the carcinogen. The most important dietary factors associated with cancer causation include fat, alcohol and nitrates. On the other hand, fiber, certain vitamins such as A, C and E, and other trace elements such as zinc are thought to be beneficial nutrients in cancer prevention," Abdulla explained.

He added that it has become clear that the differences in the rate at which various cancers occur in different human populations are often correlated with differences in the diet. "It has been observed that diets high in fat and low in fiber are associated with high incidence of colorectal, pancreatic, breast, gynaecological and prostatic cancers. Also, a high alcohol intake together with very low or high fiber foods has been associated with a high incidence of oral and pharyngeal cancers."

"This is why the study we are proposing to carry out with the



Dr Mohamed Abdulla

Faculty of Medicine and Hamdard University in Karachi is important to Kuwait. I was told that the incidence of diabetes, hypertension and cancer has increased significantly during the last few decades in Kuwait, and that scientists in Kuwait generally agree that the increased frequency of these diseases is in many ways related to the changes in eating patterns and lifestyles of Kuwaitis after the oil boom," Abdulla stated.

Habits

The study which, if approved, is expected to be executed in 4 to 5 years, will outline the dietary habits of Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti populations, and quantify the specific carcinogens in these diets.

"Such information about eating habits is essential in any effort to recommend certain changes in eating patterns. It makes me very sad to see children in Kuwait who are overweight and inactive. Something has to be done about that because it's in this early part of our lives that our control mechanisms are developed."

Abdulla said explaining that cancer could be caused by genetic as well as environmental factors.

"Today's youngsters are doing everything they are not supposed to do. I remember when I was little I had to walk 5 km in mud to school every day. I haven't been sick one day of my life."

Abdulla said that cancer is not as dreadful as it sounds. "The problem with cancer is that we cannot always diagnose it early enough. Cancer shortens an individual's lifetime by 2 to 3 years, while heart disease shortens it by ten years," he added.

He also said that cancer is closely related to ageing. "If we live to be a hundred, there will be a fairly good chance that we'll develop some kind of cancer. We all have the cells with potential to become cancer cells, but when we are young, they are depressed by immunity and other hereditary factors."

ACO donation

KUWAIT, March 24, (Kuna): The Arab Cities Organisation has donated 91,000 Jordanian dinars (about \$150,000) for Arab establishments in occupied Jerusalem, it was announced here today.

ACO secretary-general Abdul Aziz Al Adasani said the donation has been decided to enable these establishments carry out their human duties particularly in the light of the hard conditions and the deterioration of health services in the occupied territories.

He added that the donation will be given to educational, health, cultural and charitable organisations.

Juvenile delinquency on the rise

VIOLATIONS and offences committed by minors in Kuwait sharply rose during the past few years according to the director of the Computerised Information Centre at the Ministry of Justice, Mohammad Al Roumi. The official said that the number of juvenile delinquency cases recorded in 1984 was 1,656 and it rose to as many as 2,515 cases in 1989. Roumi said that 2,677 minors were accused of carrying out the violations last year. He said that most of the defendants were involved in traffic violations. They were 922 defendants or 34.4 per cent of all juveniles involved in offences. This was followed by beating, quarrelling and aggression in

which 637 minors were involved or 23.8 per cent. 522 of the minors or 19.5 per cent were accused of thefts, 131 or 5 per cent were accused of vulgar acts, 91 or 3.4 per cent for misuse of telephone and the rest in other accusations.

Increase

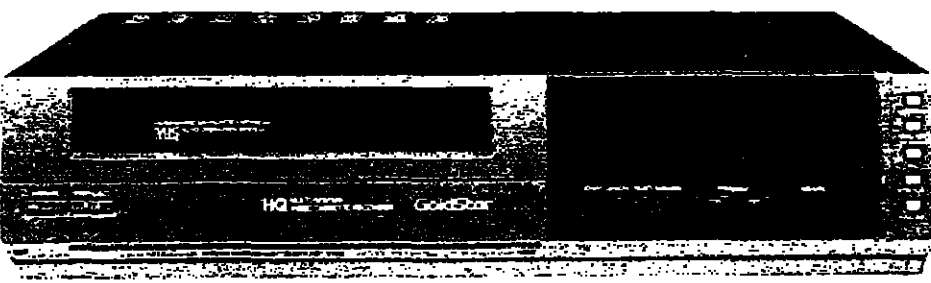
Roumi said that the sharp increase in the number of juvenile delinquency cases has alarmed many officials in the country because of the grave consequences such delinquency may have on families and the whole society. A separate prosecution for delinquent minors was established in 1983 to look into juvenile cases, Roumi said.

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SHUWAIKH Tel: 4610000	KHALDIYAN Co-op Market Tel: 4610000	KUTAN Main St. Al-Hamad Complex Tel: 4730442	PARWANYAN Main St. Tel: 4730442	AL-SALAM Central St. Tel: 4332143	ANMAH Co-op Market Tel: 3081913	FAHANEH Al-Salem Bldg. Tel: 3017610	GRAND STORES Fahaneh Tel: 3017610	JABRA Co-op Market Tel: 4775510	PARALINE JABRA Tel: 4610000



Marx smeared

A soldier strolls past a list of Karl Marx, recently smeared with paint and excrement, in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, on Friday. Socialist images and slogans have been defaced or removed, as Ethiopia follows the lead of Eastern Europe in dismantling socialism. (Reuters wirephoto)

UN will resume Jew deliberations

Influx to Palestine

UNITED NATIONS, March 24. (Agencies): The Security Council will resume Tuesday its deliberations on Soviet-Jewish immigration to Palestine, the UN announced yesterday.

The last meeting occurred on March 15 prior to the outcome of the cabinet crisis in Israel.

Since then, Arab diplomats have been lobbying hard to bring as many delegations as possible to the council table on this issue. Speaking on behalf of the Arab group during the last council meeting, Abdullah Salah said it would be a "denial of justice" to allow the Jews to settle in the occupied territories for no other reason than that they were Jewish, while the Palestinians were denied the right to settle in their homeland only because they were Arab.

Kenneth Stein, director of the Middle East programme at the Carter Presidential Centre in Atlanta, said he was surprised at the depth of resentment from Arabs about Jews from the Soviet Union coming to live in Israel.

Stein said officials in Jordan, Egypt and Syria "believe there is a conspiracy — that Moscow is providing the bodies and Washington is providing the money — and that the United States and Soviet Union are

doing this intentionally to hurt the Arabs."

The Soviet national airline Aeroflot has closed down one of the main routes for Jews emigrating to Israel, halting ticket sales to Budapest, Soviet television reported yesterday.

The decision followed a decision by Hungary's Malev Airline to stop flights of Soviet Jews to Tel Aviv via Budapest because of the threat of Palestinian terrorist attacks, a move Israel officials denounced as a "classic example of terrorist blackmail."

On Thursday, Malev also appealed to Aeroflot to stop bringing Jewish emigrants into the country.

Soviet television said Aeroflot would not sell tickets to emigrants wishing to travel to Budapest from Moscow, Leningrad and the Ukrainian capital of Kiev, but would continue to transport businessmen and tourists.

Malev will also continue to sell tickets to tourists.

Some Soviet Jewish emigrants who already had bought Malev tickets travelled to Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport. They said the airline refused to register any passengers who wanted to emigrate to Israel.



Root policemen climb on the wall to tear down illegal pro-Kurdish banners hung on the wall of Istanbul University by students who demonstrated to mark the Iranian New Year Now Ruz. (Reuters wirephoto)

French experts find pyramid of unknown Pharaonic queen

CAIRO, March 24. (UPI): French archaeologists have unearthed a previously unknown pyramid estimated to be 4,500 years old in the Saqqara region west of Cairo, apparently belonging to a queen missing from ancient Egyptian history, according to reports in Egyptian newspaper to be published today.

They said there were hopes the royal tomb had not been robbed, Zahi Hawas, director of the Giza Antiquities Department, said yesterday.

"The pyramid is 20 metres (yards) high and is located in the Saqqara region, near the great pyramids of Giza, Hawas said.

Pyramids in Egypt were without exception the tombs of kings, and sometimes also of queens, from the third dynasty (about 2,750 BC) to the eighteenth dynasty (about 1,600 BC).

Royal burial chambers in pyramids are

usually found deep down in subterranean rock, together with a number of chambers and corridors. Robbers have in the past succeeded in removing the contents of most burial chambers.

"So far, archaeologists have been unable to find the exact entrance to the pyramid," he said.

"Archaeologists are trying to find it now. We think it is 10 metres (yards) underground. It is possible the tomb has not been robbed," he said.

Hawas said the pyramid was found near a royal tomb known to date back 4,300 years and to have belonged to King Bebe I, who lived during the sixth dynasty.

Archaeologists discovered two other pyramids in the same region two years ago. "We think these pyramids belong to three different ancient Egyptian queens," Hawas said.

French archaeologists working on the site said they were not sure when the entrance to the burial chamber might be found. One member of the expedition, which is working under the supervision of the Egyptian antiquities department, said the group was moving step by step.

"We are moving carefully, step by step... even when we find the entrance to the pyramid, it will take some time to reach the burial chamber," one member of the expedition said.

Entering the burial chamber may involve a certain risk. Recent tests in West Germany have revealed that a number of archaeologists who died shortly after entering the burial chambers of pyramids were not killed by the so-called Pharaoh's curse, but by the spores of a deadly fungus which lay dormant for thousands of years.

'New situation' develops over hostages' fate

BEIRUT, March 24. (AP): Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah, Lebanon's most influential Shiite Muslim cleric, said yesterday a "new situation" has developed over the fate of Western hostages held by pro-Iranian factions.

But Fadlallah, spiritual guide to the pro-Iranian Hezbollah, said he had no specific information about when any of the captives might be freed.

A terse statement released by his office quoted Fadlallah as saying when asked about the possibility of a hostage release in a radio interview: "A new situation has emerged, but I don't know when, how or where." The statement did not elaborate.

Fadlallah's remarks heightened speculation that there is movement in efforts to secure the release of 18 Westerners missing in Lebanon, most believed held by groups linked to Hezbollah.

They are eight Americans, four Britons, two West Germans, two Swiss, an Irishman and an Italian.

The longest held is Terry Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press. He was kidnapped in Beirut March 16, 1985. Several other captives have been held for almost as long.

Beirut's Ash-Shiraa weekly said yesterday that Fadlallah had replied through an intermediary to questions from former US

president Jimmy Carter on the issue.

It said the questions dealt with the hostages' whereabouts and the possibility of releasing them, but the story gave no specific examples.

Fadlallah said in a sermon Feb 23 that the issue of the Western captives was being exploited to distort Islam's image and called for a humanitarian approach to free them.

His remarks echoed an earlier editorial in Iran's English-language Tehran Times daily, which often reflects Rafsanjani's thinking.

There have been repeated statements from Iranian and Lebanese officials in

recent weeks that releases were possible. Editorials in Tehran newspapers have fuelled the speculation that events were moving toward that end.

But despite the frenzy of expectation, informed sources in Beirut and the Syrian capital of Damascus, where officials have been involved in earlier releases, have reported no indication that a hostage release is imminent.

UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar made a new appeal yesterday for Word of British journalist Alec Collett on the fifth anniversary of his abduction in Lebanon while on an assignment for the United Nations.

Jerusalem resolution

Arab League criticises US

WASHINGTON, March 24. (AP): The Arab League denounced the US Senate yesterday for a resolution stating that an undivided, occupied Jerusalem should be recognised as the capital of Israel.

The Senate unanimously adopted the resolution by voice vote late Thursday in what was viewed as a swipe at President George Bush for saying Jews should not settle in occupied east Jerusalem, the section of the city seized by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war.

The Senate measure, which has no legal status and simply expressed the sense of the Senate, said senators acknowledged "that occupied Jerusalem is and should remain the capital of the state of Israel."

The resolution is a "shocking development that demonstrates an incomprehensible and reckless defiance of the international community, the Arab and Muslim worlds and the declared policy of the United States," said Arab League ambassador Clovis Maksoud.

"This irresponsible resolution forfeits any serious or constructive role the US Senate can play in the search for a just peace in the Middle East," said Maksoud, who represents the 22-member organisation.

Occupied Jerusalem is revered by the Arab world as one of Islam's holiest sites and the right of capital of a Palestinian state.

The United States and most other countries have not recognised Jerusalem as the Israeli capital, maintaining their embassies in Tel Aviv.

US policy states that while occupied Jerusalem should not be divided again, as it was until 1967, the question of sovereignty over the holy city should be determined in Israeli-Arab

negotiations. The Senate "strongly believes that occupied Jerusalem must remain an undivided city in which the rights of every ethnic religious group are protected," the Senate measure states.

Senator Patrick Moynihan said the resolution "represents a clear statement by the Senate that President Bush's statements on East Jerusalem were unwise and untimely."

He said Bush's "ambiguous statements about the status of occupied Jerusalem" are not helpful to the peace process.

Responding to criticism, Bush has argued that he was merely stating existing policy when he made his remarks earlier this month. "Our efforts in the peace process are in no way designed to promote the division of occupied Jerusalem," Bush said in a letter to senator Rudy Boschwitz.

■ Palestinian President Yasser Arafat urged Arab-Americans in Washington yesterday to apply pressure on the American administration to end the continuous (Israeli) oppression of and violations against the basic national rights of our (Palestinian) people.

He also urged thousands of Arab-Americans assembled in Washington to expose "the dangers of Israeli aggression against Palestinian rights as well as to demonstrate how the American role as peace broker will be jeopardised in the region."

■ The National Council on Canada-Arab relations has sent a complaint to the Canadian Human Rights Commission on the conference the University of Manitoba province intends to hold next month under the title of "Islamic terrorism in the 1990's and the threat to North America."

Turkey alert for Kurdish violence

ANKARA, March 24. (Reuters): Turkey is on alert for increased Kurdish separatist violence after the most costly start to any year since fighting erupted in mid-1984.

"This is a critical year for the PKK (Kurdish Workers Party) the year is going to be very active for them," an official Turkish sources said yesterday.

"They failed in 1989 to achieve their long-stated aim of forming a liberated area in Turkey. Now they feel they have to do something to gain the upper hand."

It is also concerned that the PKK may be forging links with Turkish leftists to help widen operations at present confined to a mountainous southeastern region about half the size of Italy.

A total of 78 rebels, troops and civilians have been reported killed since January 1, compared with only 16 in the first three months of last year.

Some Ankara-based diplomats believe pro-Kurdish sentiment, including university demonstrations, will grow unless the government liberalises some of its policies towards Kurds.

"There is increasing popular resentment," an Asian diplomat said. "Pro-Kurdish demonstrations will expand unless something is done. The government fears events might get out of hand."

Turkey, which has the second biggest armed forces in Nato, does not regard its estimated 10 million Kurds — about one-in-five of the country's population — as a minority.

The PKK claims southeastern Turkey as part of an ancient Kurdish homeland stretching into Iran, Iraq and Syria.

Troops, backed by tanks, imposed a 36-hour curfew in the border town of Cizre last week after at least four people were killed by gunfire during a Kurdish demonstration.

Officials said the first shots came from rebels with long-range rifles and that troops returned the fire.

Thirteen rebels, who the sources said had planned to pave the way for a further 400 PKK fighters to enter Turkey, were killed a week earlier near the Syrian border. The PKK responded by gunning down nine civilian workers last Wednesday.

More than 40 Turkish Kurds were arrested after they occupied a Turkish airlines office in central London yesterday and threatened to set fire to the building, police said.



A German Shepherd dog sniffs a bag of a Christian Aoun patrol the areas they gained from fighters of Lebanese Forces militia following heavy battles. Beirut. Army troops loyal to defiant General Michel (Reuters wirephoto)

New flare-up fuels fears of all-out war

3 killed in Christian fighting

BEIRUT, March 24. (Agencies): Rival Christian forces battled with howitzers and mortars north of Beirut through the night, stirring fears today that it signals a new round of all-out war in a power struggle for mastery of the Christian enclave.

Police said three people were killed and seven wounded in the fighting in Kesrouan province on the eastern flank of the Christian enclave between rebel Gen Michel Aoun's troops and the Lebanese Forces militia led by Samir Geagea.

The latest fighting raised the casualty toll since Aoun moved against Geagea Jan 30 to at least 765 killed and 2,123 wounded, most of them civilians.

Both sides accused each other of provoking the latest clashes, the most serious violation of a repeatedly abused March 3 ceasefire in the 310-square-mile (800-square-kilometre) Christian enclave.

Fears that a new flare-up was looming have been fuelled by the mediators' failure to work out a political settlement to end the power struggle.

Tens of thousands of the estimated one million Christians living in the enclave have fled in recent weeks because of the fighting.

A police spokesman, who cannot be named under standing regulations, said a large-scale battle "appears to be in the offing, especially if the mediation committee is unable to work out a settlement."

That would mark another serious setback for an Arab League-brokered peace accord aimed at ending the nearly 15-year-old civil war.

A Christian source close to the mediators said: "The gap separating Geagea and Aoun remains very wide. The mediators haven't been able to bring them closer."

The source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the committee was "convinced that its efforts have reached a dead-end, but don't want to announce failure. They're hoping that a miracle of some sort might emerge to prevent a new wave of violence."

Beirut's independent An-

Nahar, daily quoted unnamed government sources as saying the United States has informed "officials that Aoun must step down in favour of the legitimate authority" of Hiriawi.

● Soviet officials said today that a short circuit was to blame for a fire at their Beirut embassy, which Lebanese sources said killed a Soviet diplomat and injured three other employees.

The officials declined to give further details of the fire that raged for two hours yesterday on the first floor of the embassy in Mary Elias district of west Beirut.

The blaze broke out a week after Lebanese militant Muslim group denounced Moscow for allowing mass emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

● While Christians continued a six-week battle in Beirut, Lebanese fighters said they attacked two joint patrols of Israeli troops and their militia allies in southern Lebanon yesterday, damaging three vehicles and inflicting casualties.

MIDEAST BRIEFS



Students' gift: British Ambassador to Lebanon Allan John Ramsey (right) and his wife (centre) hold a gift presented to them by American University of Beirut students during a reception. (Reuters wirephoto)

● Jordan probes fraud: Several people suspected of being involved in financial and administrative corruption have been asked by the prosecutor-general not to leave the country pending the completion of investigations into their cases, press reports said Saturday. (Kuna)

● Emigration denounced: An Egyptian consultant, Shura, council member has described the Soviet Jewish emigration to the occupied Arab lands as an illegal settlement plan hatched by the US and the Soviet Union during their recent Makta summit.

The chairman of the Arab and foreign committee at the consultative council Muftid Shabbab said that the evidence that the two superpowers designed the plan when the Soviet Union allowed the Soviet Jews for the first time to emigrate en masse and the US Congress, for the first time, decided to close the emigration on them. (Kuna)

● Somalia arrests killers: Somali police have arrested one of four men suspected of killing Peter White, a Briton who worked for the World Bank, the official Somali News Agency (Sonna) said today. Sonna said police captured Yusuf Beddel Guhad after a tip-off and a wild car chase through the capital Mogadishu. The agency did not say when the arrest took place. (Reuters)

● EEC offers aid to Kurdish refugees: The European Economic Community said Friday it will provide about \$1.2 million in aid to the Kurdish refugees in Turkey. (AP)

● Ethiopia relief effort stalls: A war-damaged bridge in northern Ethiopia is slowing emergency food deliveries to an estimated one million people facing possible death from starvation this year, a relief service logistics officer said Friday. The officer told United Press International a partially destroyed bridge on the relief route meant short-haul trucks were being used instead of full-size trailers, reducing food deliveries to about half normal capacity. (UPI)

● West Bank boys hurt in blast: Two Palestinian boys were wounded in the face, hands and legs in the village of Tekoa near Bethlehem in occupied West Bank when an unidentified object exploded near them, Palestinian hospital officials said today. The boys, 11 and 14 years old, were taken to hospital in occupied Jerusalem after the overnight explosion, the sources said. The army said it was checking the report. (Reuters)

● Israel envoy in Ethiopia: Israel's new Ambassador to Ethiopia, Meir Joffe, has presented his credentials to President Mengistu Haile Mariam, following the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in November. (Reuters)

● Israeli Palestinians clash: Israeli soldiers shot and wounded two Palestinians in clashes in Bureij refugee camp on Friday after a four-year-old Arab girl was run over and killed by a border patrol jeep. (Reuters)

I have chance, says Peres

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM March 24. (UPI): Labour Party leader Shimon Peres said today he had a reasonable chance to form Israel's next government despite the possibility of three key religious parties backing his rival Likud Party.

In an interview with Israel Radio, Peres said he represented at least 60 of the 120 members in Israel's Parliament, the Knesset, "that can proceed with the peace momentum," which Peres said also was essential to aid in Israel's absorption of new immigrants.

The 60 seats comprise 39 from Peres' centre-left Labour Party, additional seats from left-wing allies and Arab parties and the provisional support of one ultra-orthodox Religious Party.

Peres cast aside concerns raised over whether a narrow, Labour-led government could succeed.

"A decision will never be judged in history just by the number of people that have supported it, but by the results and the fruits that this sort of a decision is bearing for the nation as such and for the individual," Peres said.

President Chaim Herzog gave Peres the mandate to try to form Israel's next government Tuesday, five days after the Labour Party orchestrated the successful no-confidence motion that brought down Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Shamir fired Peres from the Israeli cabinet 11 days before the vote because of an impasse over whether to accept a US proposal on how to begin Israeli-Palestinian talks.

Likud and Labour had ruled in the 15-month-old coalition government that collapsed, with Shamir as prime minister and Peres finance minister.

Israel's four religious parties — three of which are ultra-orthodox guided by spiritual mentors — hold 18 key Knesset seats in the coalition negotiations.

Three religious parties are leaning toward backing Shamir and his Likud faction, while the ultra-orthodox Agudat Israel Party is leaning toward Peres. But Agudat Israel also has said it does not want to be the only religious party in a coalition government.

Peres said he had not expected a honeymoon when Herzog picked him and he was certain that negotiations would be difficult. But Peres said his chances to form the next government were reasonable, adding, "I have to work hard, all of us have to work hard."

"I stand today on some important achievements and before some important problems," Peres said. "The basic achievement is that we have learned that we can create a common denominator on the two major issues, the religious and the policy issue."

"We have learned that we can bring parts from different sides of the political arena of Israel to come together and agree on a religious platform for a given time and on a political platform in the near future," he said.

● UN chief in Morocco: UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, speaking before talks today with Morocco's King Hassan, said he hoped to speed up a settlement of the 14-year-long conflict in western Sahara.

Perez de Cuellar said on arrival at Marrakech yesterday he would "personally renew my efforts in the region... it is about time to give new impetus to this affair which has dragged on too long." (Reuters)

● ICRC complains of emblem abuse: The Red Cross complained on Saturday that other relief organisations in Sudan were flying flags too much like its own.

President Cornelio Sommaruga of the Swiss-based International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said he "noted with great concern allegations of the misuse of the Red Cross emblem in Sudan." (Reuters)

● Charles in Tunisia: Britain's Prince Charles arrived in Tunis on Friday night for a private visit which ends on Monday. British embassy sources said. (Reuters)



Gas mask drill: Israeli students practise using gas masks in nationwide drill aimed at self-protection in case of chemical attack. (AP wirephoto)



Peter Neville — author of 'Do Cats Need Shrinks?' with Scribble the cat

How to dry your alcoholic moggy

By Claire Lockhart

A hard-drinking cat that had to be "dried-out" and a former pub moggie so used to drunks that it treated non-staggering humans with great suspicion....

Yes, even the cat world has an alcohol problem.

More painful for the owner was the case of Wilberforce, the feline that loved to chew condoms. The ultimate crisis occurred one night when he stalked a prize specimen in the bedroom. The only problem was... the master of the house was wearing it at the time!

Cat psychologist Peter Neville recalls: "This was the last straw for Wilberforce's owner who, doubtless smarting in pain, took him to the rescue centre the next day."

Slosher's passion, on the other hand, was for Campari and soda. He had been given the tipple as a treat one time too many and was now virtually addicted to the stuff. "Gradual withdrawal of access to alcohol was advised as a slow drying out programme for Slosher, who had been used to a daily drink for over three years," says Peter.

"I also advised that the soda level be raised at the expense of the Campari and hoped that cold turkey wouldn't set in!"

Rescued

Another up-market drink provided the name of a cat rescued from a pub in Scotland, Pernod's owners wouldn't understand why the creature treated some visitors with affection and others with downright suspicion.

Then they realised the only people with whom the cat was totally relaxed were those who moved strangely. Anyone who was quiet or moved normally was the cause of some anxiety for Pernod.

"It was all a question of early exposure," says Peter. "He was very suspicious of people who were quiet and walked straight but had no difficulty at all in coping with staggering, loud drunks!"

Agoraphobia — the fear of going outdoors — isn't usually associated with moggies but 32-year-old Peter — author of a new book on cat behaviour — says such cases are not unusual. He says: "Sometimes it is because they haven't experienced enough things outdoors when they were young, so anything frightens them and going out is a real problem."

"With others it is a response to a single dramatic incident. The cat may have been attacked by other cats or may have fallen from a tree. The cat then decides it is safer to stay indoors."

When a cat-fight takes place, the loser may stay indoors to avoid another encounter. "He may lose the ability to cope outdoors with mild changes such as the sound of leaves rustling or the noise of a car, even if the other cat is not on the scene."

Agoraphobia may also be due to the disturbances of the cat's access points to the home because of building work.

The feline's Freud recommends waiting for such work to finish before tempting the cat outdoors again — and he advises that the owner should accompany it for reassurance, with the pet on a lead if necessary.

Threat

In the case of another cat providing the threat, it may be necessary to discuss with its owner the possibility of letting the two beasts out at different times.

It was the sounds of the great indoors that troubled Mignon the musical moggie. When her owner whistled, she would run up the woman's body to rub herself around the mouth, while at the same time gripping tightly around her neck with her paws.

Her owner is a flute-player and her practising also sent Mignon into a frenzy. Peter explains: "The high notes of the human's whistle — or the purr, higher ones of the flute — seem to mimic the sounds made from a kitten to its mother."

"Having attracted the mother, the calls cause her to rub the kittens and physically reassure them by licking. This often happens around the face of a kitten. Mignon was possibly seeking face-to-face contact with her flute-playing owner because the sounds, no matter how well practised, indicate distress and she wants to offer her owner reassurance of the matricious one in London, the University of Bristol Veterinary School and at two animal hospitals in the North West of England, treats between 500 and 750 cats a year.

He told me: "Nearly all the cases are at the messy end like spraying indoors and toileting problems."

"They will ordinarily use a litter tray and they won't spray indoors because it is a secure base. But when they start pooping on the television or spraying, I think people put up with it once or twice — but, when it happens repeatedly, they start to get upset."

Cases

He says he sees more aggression cases these days. "I don't think this means cats are getting more aggressive. I think it is an indication that people now realise there is help available to treat these things, whereas before — certainly in aggression cases — they might have had the cat put down."

"Some cats are aggressive towards dogs because they have had a bad experience and been frightened by a canine. 'They learn if they lash out with a paw full of claws, the dog backs away,' said Peter.

"But the most acceptable form of aggression is predatory aggression. It's, after all, part of a cat's nature. Peter told me: 'We've never lectured our own cats for being non-predatory. We've always allowed them to come in and eat and then go out and hunt. Having a full tummy does not switch off the cat's hunting instincts.'

"The figures for the estimated numbers of rodents and birds that are killed by cats are astounding. In this country it is somewhere approaching 100 million a year, which ecologically is a vast amount. It is estimated that cats account for between one third and one half of all narrow deaths each year."

Although Peter has dealt with thousands of cats, there are still cases that amaze him. He recalls Thumper, a neutered ginger tom who had fallen in love with Jasmine... an eight-year-old Dachshund!

The owner complained: "He follows her everywhere, yowling and sniffing and tries to mount her at every opportunity!"

Peter discovered Thumper was responding to smells given off by Jasmine as a result of an internal tumour in much the same way he would respond to a cat in heat. Jasmine was treated and Thumper started looking for a new mate!

Drummer Roy Haynes: the modern touch rediscovered

By Ken Franckling

BOSTON, (UPI): Roy Haynes, a pioneer of modern jazz drumming, is tired of hearing his name and his career talked about in the past tense.

But after 45 productive years in music, he laughs about that irony and its flip side: some listeners are just discovering him. Some even think he's a newcomer on the scene, a mistake not likely from any serious jazz listener.

While Haynes has influenced several generations of modern drummers, he has toiled in relative obscurity compared to higher profile players of his own post-war generation.

Originals

"People always want to dwell on what we did in the past. What are we doing now? What can I still do now? That's what is important," Haynes says. "I love to play, and I was Charlie Parker's favourite drummer. These are the things the world should know."

Haynes, who kept time for Miles Davis, Bird, Sarah Vaughan, Stan Getz, John Coltrane, Eric Dolphy, Thelouise Monk and Gary Burton at different points in his career, has just recorded with guitar whiz Pat Metheny.

Haynes' light touch is his hallmark. He is a drummer who celebrates the melodicism in a song with tasteful accents.

In addition to studio work, he has his own quartet. The current band includes pianist David Kikoski, bassist James Genus and either Craig Handy or Ralph Moore on tenor sax.

"In a big band, the drummer has to generate the power. In a little band, you can say magically. You're in demand, but not as much in the rhythm role," Haynes says.

Listen to four of the finest jazz recordings ever made: volume one of *The Complete Sarah Vaughan on Mercury*, Getz' brilliant 1962 *Focus* album (Verve) and Chick Corea's *Now He Sings, Now He Sobs* (Pacific Jazz) or *Theodosious Monk: Live At The Five Spot* (Milestone). Haynes is right in the thick of things.

Creativity

"I think Roy is one of the greatest drummers who ever lived," says jazz producer and pianist George Wein. "I've played with a lot, and listened to a lot. Roy has a touch and creativity that very few can match."

Born in Boston on March 13, 1926 Haynes worked the Boston jazz scene as a teenager with Felix Barbosa, Frankie Newton and Saby Lewis. In the summer of 1945, a special delivery letter summoned him to New York to join Luis Russell's 17-piece band at the Savoy

ballroom. Haynes was paid \$125 a week and stayed two years.

In late 1947, he joined saxophonist Lester Young's quartet for a two-year tour. Haynes roosted at Birdland in 1949 as house drummer, until Max Roach recommended him to Charlie Parker. He played with Bird for a year.

From 1953 to 1958, a period in which drummers Roach, Art Blakey and Philly Jo Jones had their own high-profile bands, Haynes worked almost exclusively with Vaughan.

"I may have had the sensitivity of accompanying a singer, but she made me really get down. There are musicians who can't play slow and keep the interest," Haynes says.

Enjoyed

"Just hearing her, especially back in that period, she sounded like Charlie Parker or Bud Powell. It was never stiff. We never had to play the same thing. She was always a libbing. I enjoyed every moment of it."

Haynes was Coltrane's favourite substitute when Elvin Jones was unavailable.

able. Tony Williams credits him with introducing the triplet feel on drums that Jones developed further.

"Back in the old days, some guys had only one cymbal, and one or two toms. But they could get so much out of it," Haynes says. "I always tried to say as much as I could with as little as I had."

"Most of today's young drummers all sound alike. There is more copying going on now than ever. Some are better musicians, because they have had more of a chance to study, and they are brighter. But I don't know if they really know what to do with all that brightness."

On a recent trip to Europe, a fan came up to Haynes and told him he was famous. A household word.

"I said I didn't think so. But the fact that people know something about me, and love me without having been sponsored by a record company promotion makes me feel good. It has all happened naturally," Haynes says.

"That is a great reward to me, even if it doesn't sell millions of records. But who knows, there is still some time left."

New York Academy of Art

A pragmatic approach to art

By Stephanie de Montvallon

NEW YORK (WNL): Anatomy classes, a precise study of the skeleton, muscles, fat and skin are all part of the course. A medical school? No, this is the New York Academy of Art.

"When a student leaves this school, he or she knows the name of each bone and muscle, and its shape, and has a full understanding of how it works," explains the director of studies at the academy, Belgian-born Xavier de Callatay.

The school is one of a kind in the West in that it focuses on the study of how to draw, paint and sculpt the human body. Contrary to most other art schools in which students are often left to themselves to develop their own style under the guidance of teachers, the academy, located on Lafayette Street in lower Manhattan, offers a very structured environment. "We have a very scientific approach, it is a practical, hands-on teaching situation," de Callatay explains.

The point is definitely not to explore creativity in a disorderly manner. When it opened seven years ago, attracting students from many countries, the school drew its inspiration from the Renaissance, the great cultural movement that swept from Italy to the rest of Western Europe in the 15th and 16th centuries. It was a period of great change when artists, writers, thinkers and architects threw off the feudal values of the Middle Ages to bring about a revival of the arts and science, following in the footsteps of the Greeks and the Romans.

The Renaissance (literally "rebirth" in French) saw travellers setting off to explore new continents, the invention of the printing press and a whole new approach to science, religion and architecture.

This was also a time of new thinking: Intellectuals calling themselves "humanists" tried to break the shackles of religious orthodoxy to



Students (above) find technique comes first at New York's Art Academy.

inspire a new confidence in man's abilities to think and create. This had a profound effect on all art forms. The flat paintings of the Middle Ages suddenly became three-dimensional under the pencils and brushes of masters like Botticelli, Michael Angelo and Leonardo da Vinci.

The founders of the New York Academy say

they have returned to the values of the Renaissance and its precision in depicting the human form, rejecting the unbridled liberalism that spread through most art schools in the 1960s. For the 78 graduate students currently enrolled at the academy, the first hours of classes are often a lesson in humility. They find that what is important is not aesthetics but technique, start-

ing with a rigorous and disciplined study of anatomy through geometry.

The spirit of the Renaissance is ever-present. Says de Callatay with enthusiasm: "I think that today, man is gradually regaining a central role. Until recently, there was a certain lack of confidence in the human mind, but I think that the students here have reacted against this through their work."

One of the academy's priorities is to teach how to draw. Although the students are all art school graduates in their late 20s or early 30s, they still have a lot to learn and the human body comes first, according to director Gregory Hedberg. "Once you can master the structure of the human body and can convey that on a piece of paper, landscapes and things like that are terribly easy," he says.

Training can be grueling. The 40 hours of class and strict daily discipline leave the students little time to think about their own style. Most students, like Soviet-born Svetlana O'Malley, don't complain. "I don't feel limited, I don't feel as though I am losing my creativity. True, it is restrictive and demanding, but I think it is necessary to go through this to understand humanity in general. I am more interested in people than in abstract understanding of what people are," O'Malley emigrated from the USSR in 1972.

Students have come from far away to learn. They represent 12 U.S. states, but also China, Argentina, Vietnam, Germany, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Canada, the Philippines and Holland. Now an officially recognised institution, the academy issues master's degrees. Normal tuition averages \$7,500 a year, but the school awards a few scholarships each year to exceptionally gifted students who could not otherwise afford to come.

62nd Oscar

Favourites

HOLLYWOOD, (UPI): The 62nd annual Academy awards, like the previous 61, offer movie aficionados with a betting bet the opportunity to handicap something with better odds than Santa Anita Park.

There are only five horses in each race under the lights at the Los Angeles music centre Monday, March 26.

And the favourites are fairly easy to pick. After all, the claiming races have been run at tracks operated by critics, directors and writers guilds. Golden Globes and other warm-ups. The major contest, of course, is the cup for best picture. This year it appears to be a two-horse race — *Driving Miss Daisy*, a delicate filly, and *Born on the Fourth of July*, a powerful war horse.

Filling out the field are *Dead Poets Society*, *Field of Dreams* and *My Left Foot*.

Of the two front-runners *Driving Miss Daisy* has the shortest odds. It has earned more money than *Born on the Fourth of July* and includes two brilliant performances by veterans: Jessica Tandy and Morgan Freeman. It helps that both are nominated for best performances.

The touching story of a southern Jewish matron and her deferential black chauffeur suffers one major glitch. Its director, Bruce Beresford, was not nominated.

Born on the Fourth of July is second in the betting. Its chances were boosted earlier this month when Oliver Stone won the Directors Guild of American award.

The entry's young jockey (Tom Cruise) although nominated for an Oscar, probably doesn't have the experience to boot his mount home.

Of the three remaining entries, *Field of Dreams* has the inside track although its director, Phil Alden Robinson, failed to qualify.

My Left Foot will be an also ran, partly because it is an Irish-English import, a handicap on this western turf. *Dead Poets Society* is the old entry (released early last year) and not in the same class with the others.

Stone is the hottest horse in the directors' handicap. Not only did he win this race three years ago (*Platoon*), he won this year's DGA tune-up. He's better than even money to win again.

Woody Allen — nominated for *Crimes and Misdemeanors* — usually finds the Oscars a muddy track and has little chance.

Kenneth Branagh, the young Irishman who triumphed with *Henry V*, is unseasoned and outclassed. The same goes for another Irish newcomer, Jim Sheridan, for *My Left Foot*, the only race he's ever run.

Tandy for her subtle performance in *Driving Miss Daisy*. She will romp home first, a winner all the way.

Running second is Michelle Pfeiffer, a classy filly who showed good leg and early speed as the sexy singer in *The Fabulous Baker Boys*. But she has future races to run and this may be Tandy's last shot.

Fading in the stretch will be Pauline Collins who turned in a bravura performance as *Shirley Valentine*. Here again, an English sire and dam will hold her back.

Isabelle Adjani, *Camille Claudel*, and Jessica Lange, *Music Box*, are there simply to fill out the field.

In the sweepstakes for best actor the winner should be Daniel Day-Lewis. His performance as *My Left Foot* was so dazzling he should have been allowed to run unopposed. But he will be pressed by a pair who posted impressive starts in previous races.

Morgan Freeman, a seasoned campaigner, could carry the day. His remarkable performance in *Driving Miss Daisy* might well have won in past Oscar races in which Day-Lewis was not in the field.

Youthful Cruise, *Born on the Fourth of July*, proved he could go the distance in fast company, but the pace may be too tough in this company.

Robin Williams, *Dead Poets Society*, is out-classed here.

Branagh, expending too much of himself in the best director heat, will be an also ran despite a swift performance as *Henry V*.

Best supporting actress may be the most difficult race on the card: Brenda Fricker, *My Left Foot*, Anjelica Huston and Lena Olin, an entry in *Enemies, A Love Story*, Julia Roberts, *Steel Dawn* and Dianne Wiest, *Parade*.

In a photo-finish give the nod to Fricker by a nose. Huston and Olin probably will bump each other out of contention. Roberts is new to the track.

Battling all the way down the stretch for the winner's circle... the race for best supporting actor are Martin Landau, *Crimes and Misdemeanors*, and Denzel Washington, *Glory*. Consider it a toss-up.

If there is a long shot here, it would be Danny Aiello for *Do the Right Thing*.

Railbirds, touts, shills and high rollers could do worse than paste the following in their hats:

● Best Picture: *Driving Miss Daisy*
● Best Director: Oliver Stone
● Best Actress: Jessica Tandy
● Best Actor: Daniel Day-Lewis
● Best Supporting Actress: Brenda Fricker
● Best Supporting Actor: Martin Landau

Japan

Farmers' wives lead lonely lives

KUMAMOTO, Japan, (Reuters): Rikio Yamaguchi says it's almost impossible for farmers like him to find wives in the remote, mountainous prefecture of Kumamoto in southern Japan.

"I somehow understand why city girls, with enough money to buy Italian clothes and travel abroad twice a year, wouldn't be interested in living as a farmer's wife here," the 42-year-old bachelor says.

In the depth of the harsh Japanese countryside, any woman contemplating marrying a farmer might recall the old saying: "Three years of tears, ten years of endurance."

"Yes, it is hard," says Yomiko Yumoue, 35, recalling her first year as a bride in this remote village, where people make a living growing rice and vegetables and making silk.

"Every grain of rice, all the vegetables, even the fish on the table ended up looking to me like those weird silkworms," she says. "After hours of working with boxes of silkworms in our hut, I really couldn't eat anything."

Before she got married, Yumoue was an office worker and knew nothing of farming.

"I was always crying from loneliness," says 38-year-old Kayoko Morita, proudly nibbling some of the home-made pickles she brought over to share with her neighbours. "My mother-in-law scolded me for not doing the right things as a farmer's wife."

Yumoue and Morita often get together with other women to chat over a cup of green tea and grab a brief respite from caring for their children, working in the fields or doing household chores. The village has no restaurants or cafes.

Yumoue says proudly she now darts to pick up worms with her bare hands. Morita knows how to stoke up a fire so as best to cook the huge amount of rice needed for the village festival.

Their mother-in-law now let them hold the family purse and manage the household budget.

But despite moving up in the strictly ordered hierarchy of seniority, these women have other worries in this male-dominated society.

"What if my husband should die now? ... all properties still belong to his retired father, I am not eligible for any money or insurance," Morita sighs.

In Japan, properties are inherited equally by the surviving spouse and the children. But in the three-generation families still common in the countryside, the wife of a son is excluded, even if she is the family's chief source of labour.

As for the old, only old, my husband is eligible for the government pension fund for farmers. I can't get a single damn yen. Morita's deeply tanned face clouds over when she talks of the future.

Japanese farmers are eligible for pensions only if they own more than five acres (0.125 acres) of land. It is almost always the husband who owns the farm and his wife cannot become a co-owner.

That contrasts with towns and cities where, thanks to legal reforms, more and more women are improving their social and economic position.

Last year, village in Kumamoto invited several young women from the Philippines and arranged dates with the village's young men but the experiment failed. A farm co-operative officer said the Filipinas were horrified at traditional ways such as the absolute respect a wife must give to her husband's parents.

Brides must take over every household chore — cooking, cleaning, dishwashing — as soon as they enter the family. "I still can't ask my husband to come and help in the kitchen in the presence of his father and mother," Morita said. "Men are not allowed to enter there, even my sons."

So are they trying to change things for the better? "We are discussing it now," Morita said. "But you know how rigid this society is... I look on the bright side. I remember harvest time when my joys are renewed, and then I think I made the right choice in marrying a farmer."

FAMILY DOCTOR CAN BE INCORRECTLY APPLIED

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

QUESTION: We need to know the effects a food allergy can have on a person. Can you tell us how to find out if that's the problem and what to do about it?

ANSWER: The word "allergy" is overused by physicians and patients alike, and the result is that many people incorrectly feel they suffer from a food allergy. Instead of a true allergy, they may only be experiencing a physiological reaction to a food or a substance. The response may indeed be unpleasant, but it's not allergic in origin. A true allergic reaction occurs when a person's immune system reacts to a substance. It's useful to know whether the reaction is a true allergy, because proper treatment of a severe reaction is important. It's also critical to treat problems that can be incorrectly dismissed as an "allergy."

Diagnosis of an allergy involves precise testing, as well as co-operation between patient and physician so that the problem can be sorted out and identified. You consume thousands of possible allergens (substances that can create allergic reactions), and pinpointing the one that is causing your problem isn't easy. Unpleasant reactions to foods or other substances can create a confusing picture of symptoms, often leading patient and physician down the wrong track. The "obvious" allergy is sometimes not the culprit at all. Keeping a diary that lists all foods eaten, and the types of symptoms can be most useful in discovering the real problem.

Reactions to prepared foods eaten at home or foods eaten in a restaurant can be hard to pinpoint because of the variety of ingredients they contain. Although food labeling has come a long way, specific spices are often not listed. Companies will often share a list of their ingredients,

however, if they are asked.

Foods that are most often the culprits in true allergic reactions in adults are peanuts, tree nuts, milk, eggs, shrimp, lobster, crab, crayfish, whitefish, and sesame seeds. Children most commonly have allergic reactions to eggs, peanuts, milk, fish, soybeans and wheat.

"Food allergies" are convenient, but sometimes sloppily used terms to describe a large variety of symptoms, and a rather convincing case can be made that they are the only cause of many problems. A thorough, careful investigation, however, may show that there is no allergy, and that there is another important condition or cause that should be treated.

Question: As a pharmacist, I'm at times bewildered by the use of the term "disease" as it applies to malfunctions of the body organs. Growing up in the '20s and '30s, as I recall it, disease were infectious, not malfunctions or deteriorations of an organ. Do you grasp the point I'm trying to make? Please explain.

Answer: I consulted three dictionaries in my search for your answer. Stedman's Medical Dictionary, Webster's Deluxe Unabridged, and my battered copy of Dorland's Illustrated Medical Dictionary. Webster said it most simply "any departure from health; illness in general" or "a particular destructive process in the body with a specific cause and characteristic symptoms." Both medical dictionaries accept any "deviation from," "interruption of" or "prevention" of normal function, as a definition of disease. It would seem that "infection" is just one of many disease processes.

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

ONE great use of words is to hide our thoughts —
Voltaire, French writer (1694-1778).

Routed in by-election

Thatcher faces mid-term crisis

LONDON. (Reuters): The humiliating by-election loss of a "safe" Conservative seat on Friday deepens a mid-term crisis for British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and will raise fresh questions over her leadership.

Opposition Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock, predicting he would be the next prime minister, called the result in the central English constituency of Mid-Staffordshire "a turning point — not for us, but for the Tory (Conservative) Party."

"They are going to have to make up their minds how quickly they get rid of Thatcher. The sooner she goes the better," he said.

Predicted

Even before Friday's result, Conservative rebels predicted that she would face a leadership challenge later this year.

A bid by Thatcher loyalists to make a challenge more difficult was only marginally successful when a party committee ruled on Thursday that a challenger's proposer and seconder must also be declared and not be allowed to keep their names secret.

Thatcher has until mid-1992 to call a general election and she has suffered mid-term blues during her two previous terms in office. But the nature and extent of the government's current problems make an upturn in its fortunes particularly difficult.

Traditional Conservative grassroots support has been eroded by high interest rates aimed at curbing inflation and an unpopular new "poll tax" to fund local services.

Thatcher aides said she was disappointed by the by-election result but saw it as a protest vote against the new tax.

Dominant

The poll tax issue dominated the Mid-Staffordshire vote, where a Conservative majority of 14,500 in 1987 was turned into a Labour lead of 9,500 — the biggest electoral reversal in 50 years.

"She is confident the government will win the seat at the next election and does not believe the result represents a sea-change in politics," one aide said.

But Labour said the result was more than a referendum on the poll tax. "The historic message that will go from this by-election across the Western world will be that the dark days of Thatcherism is drawing to a close," triumphantly Labour candidate Sylvia Heal said.

A compilation of four leading opinion polls showed Labour stretching its lead to 21 points, an increase of seven points in two weeks. The BBC Television "Poll of Polls" put Labour's national standing at 51 per cent against 30 per cent for the Conservatives, the government's lowest rating since the 1987 election.

Dissatisfaction

Dissatisfaction with Thatcher's leadership rose three points to 66 per cent, while her satisfaction rating dropped by the same amount to an all-time "Poll of Polls" low of 26 per cent.

Home-owners, the most solid of Conservative supporters, are being particularly hurt by high interest rates. The government has doubled rates to 15 per cent over the past 18 months and has forecast they will stay high for the foreseeable future.

The poll tax, a levy on all adults to fund local services instead of property taxes, comes into force on April 1 in England and Wales and is so reviled that Thatcher effigies have been burned in a wave of protest demonstrations.

Albanians plagued by mystery illness

BELGRADE. (Reuters): Ten people were injured in clashes in Yugoslavia's Kosovo province on Friday after hundreds of ethnic Albanians reported sick with a mysterious illness for the second successive day, Radio Belgrade said.

"The situation is dramatic in several towns," it said, adding that a total of 40 people had been hurt since Thursday.

Ethnic Albanians attacked minority Serbs and Montenegrins in six towns, beating up at least 10. One person was stabbed on Friday and a person stabbed in the chest on Thursday was in a critical condition, the radio said.

The clashes, which began after more than 400 ethnic Albanian children complained of nausea, stomach cramps and breathing problems on Thursday, raised fears of a new wave of ethnic violence that has killed 20 people in Kosovo this year.

Victims

The Albanians said the children were victims of a mass chemical poisoning. No other ethnic group

has been hit.

On Thursday, ethnic Albanians chanting "you poisoned our children" stormed the local Communist Party and police headquarters in the town of Podujevo, broke into houses and stoned cars, and halted a train to molest passengers.

Belgrade Radio reported new clashes in Vucitrin, Klinja, Urosevac, Pec, Prizren and Malisevo and said the injured included two Serbian policemen. Serbs, mostly outnumbered by ethnic Albanians, were staying at home and arming themselves.

It said several hundred more children had reported sick on Friday and the hospital in the town of Pec was full.

A federal team of medical experts and chemists had not been able to diagnose what caused the illness.

Kosovo's communist leaders accused the ethnic Albanians of foul play over the suspected and blamed it on those who rioted in January and February for more autonomy from the republic of Serbia, of which Kosovo is part.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1507 — France's King Louis XII attacks Genoa, Italy, with Swiss army to restore order.
- 1634 — British colonists under Lord Baltimore reach Maryland in North America.
- 1815 — Austria, Britain, Prussia and Russia form new alliance against Napoleon Bonaparte to maintain established order in Europe.
- 1821 — Greek patriots begin revolt against domination of Ottoman Empire, an uprising that lasts 12 years and wins Greek independence.
- 1883 — Revolution breaks out in Haiti.
- 1936 — United States, Britain and France sign London Naval Convention.
- 1941 — Yugoslavia joins Rome-Berlin-Tokyo alliance in World War II.
- 1957 — Belgium, France, West Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands sign in Rome treaties for Common Market and Euratom.
- 1965 — Dudley Senanayake forms ministry in Ceylon following defeat of Mrs Bandaranaike in elections.
- 1966 — Five climbers become first to reach summit of Mount Eiger in Swiss Alps.
- 1969 — Pakistan's president Ayub Khan turns power over to military after 11 years of leadership.
- 1975 — Saudi Arabia's King Faisal is assassinated in Riyadh by nephew with history of mental illness. Faisal's brother, Crown Prince Khalid, succeeds to throne.
- 1987 — More than 80 Afghan rebels and civilians are killed when Afghan Air Force jets bomb and rocket several camps close to Pakistani border.
- 1988 — Israeli troops open fire on stone-throwing Palestinians who attacked Arab school converted in makeshift army headquarters in occupied West Bank.
- 1989 — Heads of Egypt, Jordan and Palestine Liberation Organization meet to co-ordinate Middle East peace strategy.

An E. German's vision of one Germany

Contributing contrasts for unity

By Tom Porteous

BERLIN, West Germany. (WNL): Konrad Weiss has a vision for a united Germany: a nation which can live in peace with its neighbours and to which both East and West Germany can contribute the contrasting lessons of their 40 years' history.

"There is in our German history much that is important not only for Germany but also for Europe," Weiss says. "But there is also much that is very painful for the whole world. We cannot continue only with the one while forgetting the other. We must live with both. We must work for a healthy German national identity in a European context, with responsibility for the whole world."

In pursuit of this ideal Weiss has given up his career as a maker of children's films to become one of the leading voices in East Germany's opposition movement. He is one of a rare breed of politicians who appears to be genuinely motivated by a high sense of moral responsibility, not by desire for political power.

Weiss belongs to that group of intellectuals, artists and Christians whose persistent, principled resistance to the old Stalinist regime was one of the main factors which led to East Germany's popular revolution last autumn. In September Weiss founded "Democracy Now," one of the first of the opposition movements to emerge from the underground and call openly for political, democratic change. One month later the old communist leadership was tottering under the pressure of mass popular demonstrations; two months later the Berlin Wall had fallen, and the political map of Europe had been transformed.

Change

"With this sudden radical change," Weiss says, "it simply happened that most of us political amateurs who sat down together in September have now entered the political landscape and, circumstances permitting, some of us will assume political responsibility in Parliament, and even in the government after the elections on March 18."

"These 'amateurs' belong to the second generation of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) born during World War II, who entered school while their fathers were busy founding the socialist German state in 1949. 'I belong to the 1968 generation,'" says Weiss, a father of two daughters and now a grandfather. "Ours was a revolution of grandfathers and grandmothers for their children. I hope I belong to the generation that has not only brought about an end, but that can also make a new beginning."

Although Weiss and his colleagues describe themselves as political amateurs, they have little respect for the professionals who piled their trade in collaboration with the old regime and are now trying hard to adapt to the new democratic spirit in the election campaign. These include not only the communists, but also members of the old "block parties" who played ball with the totalitarian regime to give the Parliament a semblance of political plurality.

Says Weiss: "None of the members of those parties which had responsibility for the country and led the country into its crisis has the right today to claim political responsibility for himself. One cannot with the touch of the hand discard 44 years of the evil history and act as though it had never happened."

It is understandable that men like Weiss should distrust collaborators. Weiss, for example, suffered persistent harassment from the secret police on account of his activities in the Christian church, his close relations to dissidents and reformers in other East bloc countries — particularly Poland — and his refusal to conform to the authoritarian system. But today the much weakened Communist Party presents only a slight threat to Weiss' political vision for Germany. In fact men like the reforming communist Prime Minister Hans Modrow now share many of Weiss' aspirations, particularly in regard to the key question of German unity.

What now threatens to shatter the dreams of the "amateur politicians" are the rising tide of untrained German nationalism in East Germany and attempts of the conservative West German government, under Chancellor Helmut Kohl, to use this to annex the GDR to West Germany as quickly as possible. Says Weiss: "I regard the present massive interference of the West German parties and government in our political landscape as a presumption, a lack of political culture." He sees what he calls the invasion of the West German currency and of Western political and economic models as endangering



Konrad Weiss... amateur politician

Lost without fight

By Tom Porteous

BEIRUT, West Germany. (WNL): The world of Maj Gen Manfred Gratz, chief of staff of the East German Army, is fast disappearing. Yet it is hard to believe on a bright February morning in the quiet town of Strausberg, where the National People's Army (NVA) has its headquarters 30 miles from Berlin. Everything appears to continue to run with the Prussian attention to order and detail that one would expect of any German army. But in fact the NVA, founded in 1956 to protect socialism from the capitalist West, has just lost the cold war without firing a shot.

Already East Germany is being invaded by a West German army of businessmen and politicians, armed not with guns but with the West German mark — one of the world's strongest currencies. Against this invasion, Gratz and his staff can do no more to defend the country he has served for 40 years than East Germany's communist leaders.

"I accept," said the chief of staff in clipped military German with a strong Saxon accent, "that the German Democratic Republic (GDR) and the National People's Army are not entering the process of the unification of the two German states as victors of history. Accepted! But we are not entering this process as beggars either, we also have something to offer."

Concerned

The NVA's chief of staff has every reason to be concerned about what the future will bring for his 168,000 strong Army. Already some of his officers have individually chosen to unify — they have joined the thousands of East Germans still flocking to West Germany every day and have gone so far as to apply for commissions in the Bundeswehr, the West German army which was considered enemy No. 1 for four decades of the cold war.

"It may seem funny to you," said the chief of staff, a 55-year-old

veteran, "former it is unimaginable — in simple military terms it's desertion." Even worse for the NVA are the proposals coming from the West German Defence Ministry for an extension of the influence of Nato (the Western military alliance formed after World War II) to East Germany. What would then become of the NVA?

Gratz' arguments against the integration of the two German armies are compelling: "I simply cannot imagine that an officer who has served in the NVA, who has fulfilled his duties to the Warsaw Pact (East-bloc military alliance), who has engaged himself for the NVA can suddenly step into another uniform — that of the Bundeswehr, for example — and become a member of another military alliance, and do his job with the same sense of duty and engagement. To me it's inconceivable."

Changes

But in other branches of East German public service, for example in political and economic organizations, such changes are already taking place as the two Germanies move closer together. It is just that contradictions are that much more pronounced, complex and delicate in the disciplined and slightly unreal world of the military barracks.

Having grown up during World War II, Gratz joined the army when he was 18. "I am a child of the German Democratic Republic," he said.

"For 40 years I have felt a sense of duty to the GDR. I have sworn allegiance to it. It would simply not be true if I claimed I had for 40 years always had ideals of a United Germany in my sights."

Although he took no part in the bloody suppression by the Warsaw Pact troops of the 1968 popular uprising in Czechoslovakia, he says he was at the time convinced that the Warsaw Pact was serving a just cause. "Now my judgment is somewhat different," he said with a smile, "but as we say, 'in the evening one is

wise than in the morning."

The major general did not say exactly when he became wiser. But there were signs that the army leadership was distancing itself from the hardline political leaders of the East German regime some time before last autumn's revolution. One reason why the aged communist Politburo gave in so quickly was because it could not call on the army to help. "We were disillusioned and disappointed by our corrupt party and state leaders," Gratz admitted.

Dissolved

The fall of the regime brought immediate changes to the NVA. Its previously close relationship to the Communist Party leadership has been dissolved and officers are now allowed to affiliate with whichever political groups they want. Marxist-Leninist doctrine is no longer taught in military schools. In addition, the strength of the army has been considerably reduced, as has the required length of conscription. Whereas all East German men were formerly obliged to undergo military service, they can now choose to serve in some branch of the social services instead.

Inevitably, the NVA is losing its former character and its former purpose. As the question of the continued existence of the GDR becomes ever more pressing, so too does the question of the existence of the NVA. But what are the options? Is it really possible for two armies belonging to two separate and conflicting alliances to exist in one state? "It's true that it's very complicated," Gratz said. The solution he proposes is being discussed with the Bundeswehr: both armies, he suggests, should move step by step out of their respective alliances — Nato and the Warsaw Pact — then build up a new army that would fit within a new European security system which, in turn, would take into account the revolutionary changes of the past few months.

the chances of a gradual, stable and peaceful integration of the two Germanys. Weiss appreciates many aspects of West German democracy, but he sees it as "deformed" by the too strong connections between some of the political

parties and the powerful economic forces in industry and banking. Before the two Germanies move towards unity, Weiss says, East Germany should be allowed time to itself, time to develop its own democracy, to relish its own newly-won freedom.

Letter to the editor

India festival

SIR: A meeting at IAC on March 7 was launched for selling tickets for the India Festival. I am sure that the organisers of the I.F. do not wish to read this type of letters to the editor as one of the key personnel has already mentioned it in the meeting and this official is incidentally not a IAC member.

IAC members were not consulted on such a large programme being organised under the banner of IAC. As usual the membership is limited to the close circle of certain key personnel and some of them are not IAC members. Please do not take this as an obstruction to the good programmes being organised, certainly not, and we are proud of being IAC members and would continue to be so.

Our opinion is that when such programmes are being organised the members should be consulted first by calling a general body meeting, then form the nucleus from among them or with their consent. But now as usual some key personnel who are in the inner circle of the IAC dictate terms.

On March 7, we even saw non-members directing senior IAC members to get inside the auditorium for the start of the function. Are you a stranger in your own house or you are a guest? What a shame.

My advice is to get co-operation from each and everyone irrespective of his position and status in the public as every one from India has only one status, "expatriate Indian" and nobody should forget this fact.

Please don't pretend that you care for everyone when you behave otherwise. You can fool some people but not everyone all the time. Don't make IAC functions as M.M. business (money making) but give value to the ordinary members' feelings to achieve your goal and you don't lose anything by doing so.

A IAC wellwisher,
Safat.

PAC clarification

SIR: The present organising committee has been working actively for the past five years. Although, PAC was organised 25 years ago, in the first 20 years the then committee did not do anything remarkable. It was surviving like the other 18 Pakistani organisations, who have not done anything for the arts, literature and

for the progress of community.

Since we gave a new birth to PAC and arranged the first mushaira on Nov 17, 1985, in which Abdul Haq, the then first secretary was the chief guest and prominent Kuwaiti poet Baqi Ahmed Puri had presided over the programme. Diplomats had praised PAC and said PAC would work for the arts and literature and will arrange programmes under the new administration. Abdul Haq knew me as a poet and had appreciated my step of reorganisation. Since then we have been arranging mushairas, musical varieties and also arranged 3 programmes of renowned singers from Pakistan: two of them arranged in 5-star hotels.

We have also arranged during the past five years many Islamic gatherings, and naama mushairas. Our programmes include many wonderful aspects and we leave it at the moment as we will prove our commendable fruit in future.

Just a few days before, I came to know that some mischievous, black spots on the society, have distributed invitation cards in the name of "Pakistan Arts Circle" for a programme on Thursday, March 22, 1990. I immediately reported the matter to the embassy, who gave clarification that the embassy had issued permission letters to ministries on the request of an organisation "Fun-Kada."

According to my knowledge this "Fun-Kada" has only one man, who sent the letter to the embassy.

I hope this will clarify that Pakistan Arts Circle has nothing to do with the March 22, 1990 programme, which has been arranged on donations which have been obtained in the name of Pakistan Arts Circle. The present organising committee, which includes well-educated members including 8 professors/doctors, has never gone to beg for donations.

M. Kamal Azhar,
President PAC,
Kuwait.

Baggage allowance

SIR: Overseas Indians will welcome the change in baggage rules. As per the announcement, the customs free baggage allowance has been increased from present Rs. 1,250 to Rs. 2,000. Even though this

increase is paltry compared to the inflation and the real cost of items, however it will give some comfort when dealing with the customs in India.

The increase of duty to 25 per cent above the allowance is very high and this will hurt every incoming expatriate Indian as the customs will try to impose this levy as it is not possible to travel to India with personal baggage upto Rs. 2,000/- which is only your wrist watch and few items.

Over three decades the writer has dealt with customs affairs and has seen how expatriate Indians are being fleeced on arrival and how every expatriate Indian is a victim to customs.

For the record it is worth mentioning here that whereas every employee in the Indian work sector has gone on strike at one time or the other, even the police constabulary in India, I do not remember the customs officers ever resorting to this measure as they cannot afford to lose one day off from their customs duty. I have even found customs staff who are off duty report to airport in civilian clothes that speaks volumes of what's going on at Indian customs.

Personally I would suggest that Indian associations and the NRI forum in Kuwait and the Gulf Area should take up strongly to increase the present customs allowance upto Rs 5,000/- per passenger above the age of 12 years and to Rs 1,500 for a student and the levy on duty be lowered to 100 per cent only.

Also the perennial increase in air fare has to be stopped as the travelling Indian family pays almost KD 1000/- in air fare only to destinations in Goa and much more to the South. Here again representation has to be made to the respective authorities concerned as the salaries have remained stagnant.

Can the Goan Welfare Society take up the issues with the Indian government in co-ordination with other associations.

V. De Souza,
Kuwait.

ALL letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Drug kingpin scorns at US

MUANG TUEN, Burma. (Reuters): Heron warlord Khun Sa, marshalling his troops in the jungles of the "Golden Triangle," scorns a US court indictment and dismisses the threat of a Panama-style raid on his lair, a close aide says. "Khun Sa has become a convenient scapegoat," said his spokesman, Col Khensai Jaiyen, in this hilltop stronghold near the Burmese-Thai border. "But this is Asia, not America."

Training

The United States is training its sights on Khun Sa after ousting Panamanian leader Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega in a US military invasion in December. Washington says Noriega was a linchpin in the Latin American cocaine trade.

"The US Justice Department said last week it had indicted Khun Sa on 10 drug-trafficking charges related to vast quantities of heroin smuggled into the United States between 1983 and 1988."

The US Drug Enforcement Administration estimates 40 to 50 per cent of the heroin reaching the United States comes from the Golden Triangle, where the borders of Burma, Laos and Thailand meet.

The Thai press has speculated the United States might be planning a military operation in the remote Burmese hills to grab Khun Sa — the "Prince of Death" to US authorities, "Prince Prosperous" by his own description.

A US embassy spokesman in Bangkok said he was unaware of any such plan but said the indictment was aimed in part at showing that Washington had not forgotten the heroin problem in Asia as it battled Latin America's cocaine dealers.

Hard

Grabbing Khun Sa, who commands a disciplined, well-equipped private army of more than 8,000 men, would be hard. His camps are dotted among jungle-clad hills, a terrain which would be familiar to US forces engaged in the disastrous Indochina war of the 1960s and 1970s.

"(A military operation) would be very stupid," Khensai said on Thursday in the dusty village of Muang Tuen.

"In America there's nobody to oppose the United States, but in this region there's China, the Soviet Union, India. They are closer with us and might consider taking some kind of action."

Khensai was loath to reveal the whereabouts of his boss. Bangkok press reports said he was moving north deeper into Burma, following the indictment.

But the bespectacled aide said Khun Sa, 56, was unruffled. "He feels good there's still somebody who wants to be his enemy. Without an enemy he's nothing."

Avoided

How had he avoided capture so far? "He relies mainly on his own wit on his troops, on his people."

Khun Sa, who earlier offered to stop his operations in return for payment, has upped his price to \$25 million. This was described as an "economic conversion" for the lost livelihood of peasant poppy farmers. "We are not extortionists," Khensai said.

For now, Khun Sa's main problem is rival drug armies.

The battle for supremacy with the Wa National Army has led to four major clashes since Feb 14, with hundreds of casualties on both sides, Khensai said.

As he spoke, sporadic machine-gun fire could be heard in the surrounding hills. "We have to eliminate all other rivals and to control the business in this region," Khensai said.

Khun Sa sees himself as a freedom-fighter as well as a successful businessman. His Shan United Army said it is struggling for an autonomous Shan state in Burma.

Quote me

"The filmmakers in Hollywood I think are very special. They're really keen and they're all bright and intelligent and they've got a sense of humour. They are full of enthusiasm that doesn't seem to be at all envious of others. They just give it to you on a plate. It's very nice for an old bird to get that." — Sir David Lean.

"This is a time to encourage change rather than punish. Both sides are moving toward each other." — State Department official on conditions in South Africa.

"We would like the United States to operate toward the stabilisation of the changes taking place in Europe, especially on our western and eastern borders. Solidarity spokesman Janusz Onyszkiewicz on the recent transformation in East Germany and the Soviet Union."

"It is a happy moment for Germans. My message is: stay at home, help build up this wonderful country together with us in your cities, towns and communities, in your factories. We shall help you." — Chancellor Kohl's post Germans after election victory of the CDU.

"Bourgeois capitalism is giving a good life to a limited number of countries in the world, only about 20. What about the rest of the world?" — Fidel Castro slamming capitalism.

"We need unification, and fast, to stop people leaving for the West and to strengthen our economy so we can afford a social welfare system. 'We know there will be hardship initially, but it can't be worse than what we have been through for the last 40 years.'" — An East German worker on unification.

"The American people are not going to be open to listening to other problems until our hostages are freed. They took the very people who were trying to provide help to Lebanon." — Sister of hostage Anderson, Peggy Sey.

"We have worked long and spoken hard for the disposal of apartheid and because of that we were very struck by the bold measures announced by President De Klerk as a step towards peace process." — British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd.

"We did not expect to get a majority. Fifteen per cent — that's already an opposition that can get something done. 'We want two equal, independent, sovereign states to grow into a new Germany that is better than the past East Germany but also better than West Germany.'" — Hans Modrow after his party's defeat in the East German elections.

"Hollywood is facing a challenge. Today it is by the British, tomorrow it may be the French or the Italians or the Russians. To maintain its place, Hollywood must get aside the old formulas. It must find honest stories, stories with something important to say, stories that reflect these disturbing times in which we live." — Samuel Goldwyn.

LANCET

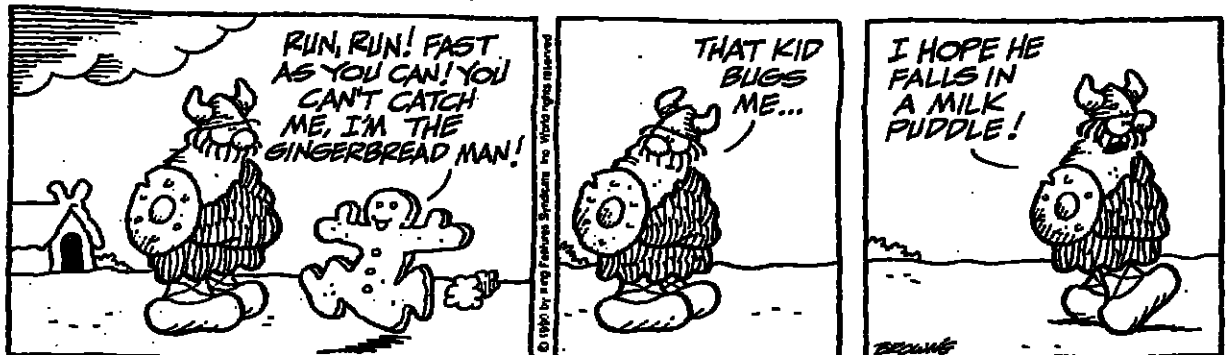
BLONDIE

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



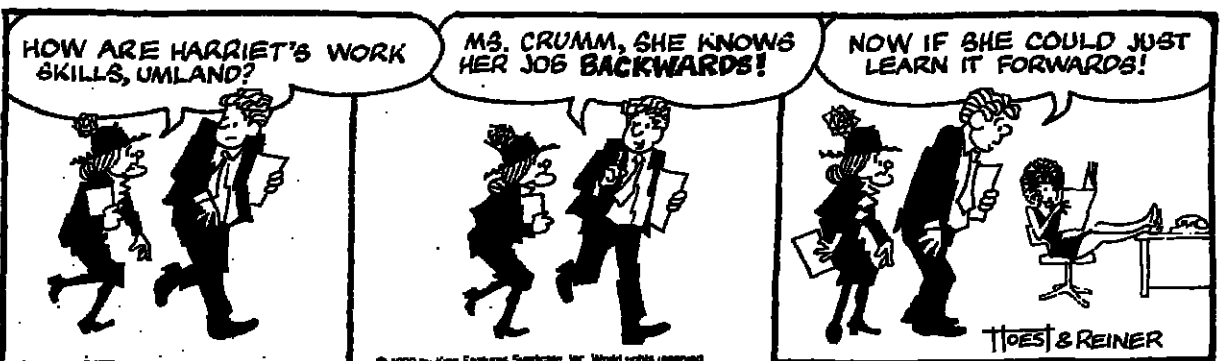
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

By Dik Browne



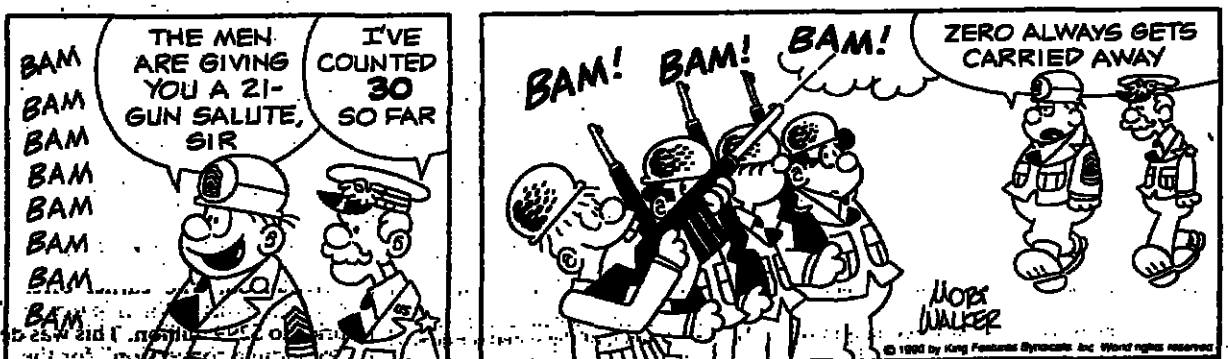
AGATHA CRUMM

By Bill Hoest



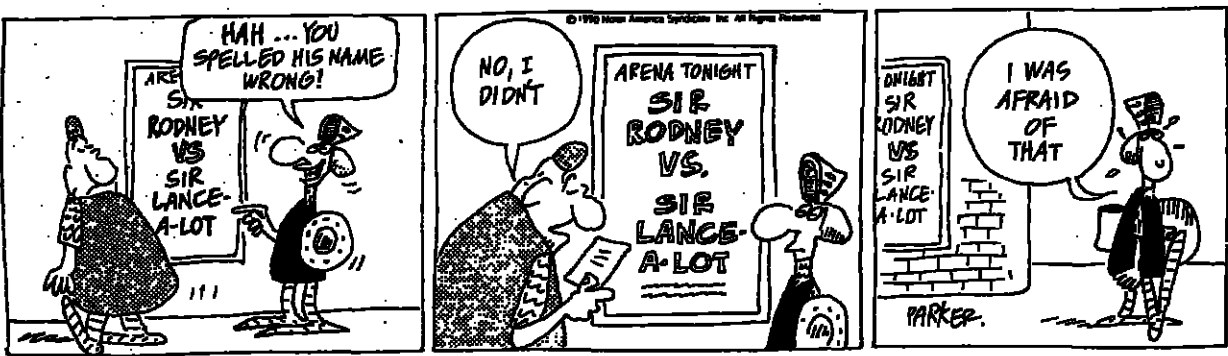
BEETLE BAILEY

By Mort Walker



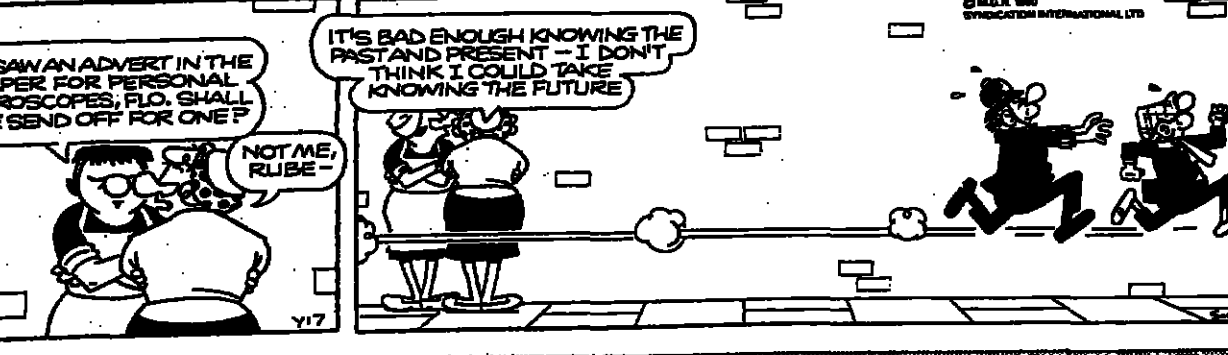
THE FORTY-ONE

By Mort Walker



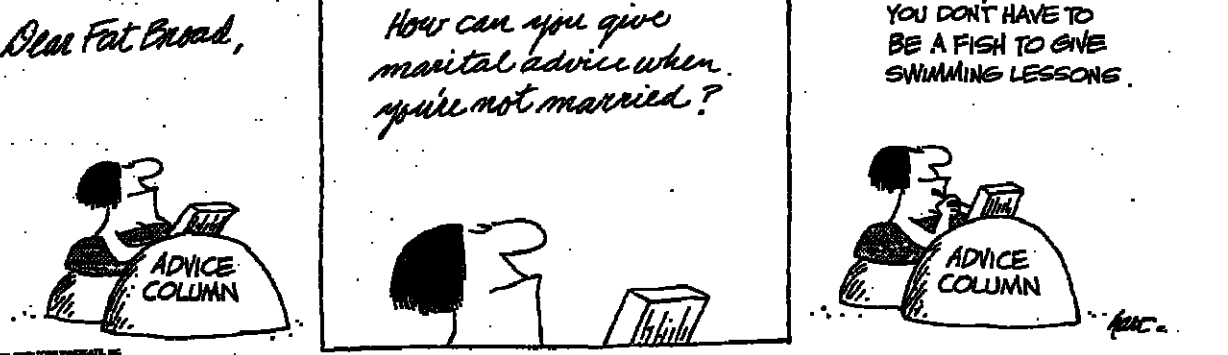
THE FORTY-ONE

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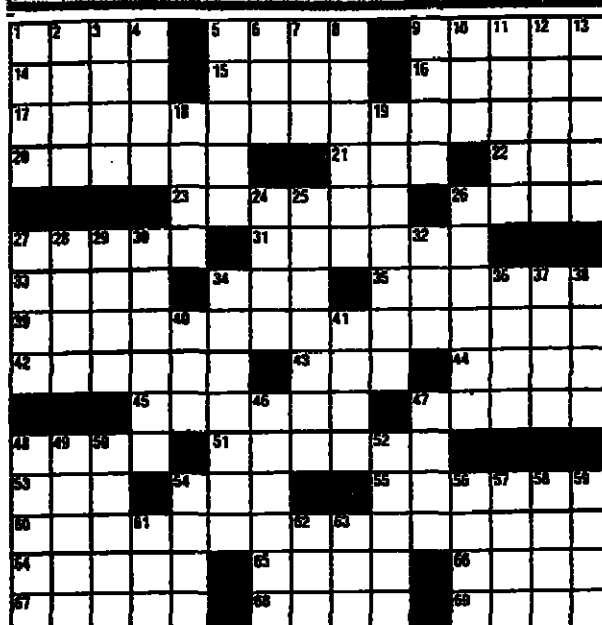


THE FORTY-ONE

By Mort Walker



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Do an about-face
 - Old Irish alphabet
 - "Doubt" truth to be - Hamlet
 - Nimbus
 - Grand slam, in cards
 - Army chaplain
 - "Rocked in the -" Willard
 - Muscle
 - Nickname at the rodeo
 - Collection of anecdotes
 - Ambia
 - Broadway offering
 - 200 milligrams
 - Province of SW Spain
 - Swan genus
 - Affix
 - "Thoroughly Modern -" Andrews film
 - Corot, for example
 - Canaanite captain
 - Judges 4:2
 - Admit to, with "up"
 - Skater Heiden
 - Flush out game, in a way
 - Coarse fabric
 - Parts of a relay race
 - Like England, in days of old
 - George's brother
 - Singer Pearce
 - Friday's friend
 - Summer cooler
 - Israel's desert
 - Of the dawn
 - Freshwater fish
 - Coeur d' -
 - Ladder part
- DOWN**
- Hebrew measure
 - Man, in ancient Rome
 - Jazz entertainer
 - Persia, today
 - Hippie hangouts
 - Manifest
 - Sticky stuff
 - TV alien
 - Stamina
 - Tip
 - Youth
 - Pattern of perfection
 - Combat zone
 - Fulfill an obligation
 - At sea
 - Author of "Toys in the Attic"
 - Ostrich's cousin
 - Discharge, as lava
 - Lie
 - Mountain passes
 - Jai -
 - Darling of the Mets et al.
 - Egyptian units
 - of capacity
 - ancient
 - Crothers
 - Money, in Milan
 - Osiris' wife
 - Emulate Dürer
 - Lady of Spain: Abbr.
 - Pitcher
 - Like good beef
 - Sporting fish
 - Rain forest growth
 - Shakespeare's sprite
 - Coat with plaster
 - Top of the cake
 - Jupiter
 - Ravel
 - Where Anna Leonovans taught
 - Story starter
 - Rome of Hungary
 - One hundred yrs.
 - Chit, for short
 - Goal of a sunbather

- ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**
- BEES LAND TANTE
ELIA AVER ADORE
ALOT TOILE MURAL
MERECHILDSPLAY
LED OAT
APPEAR LIT SAPS
MEALS PORT MIL
ITSAPIECEOFCAKE
NET LEAS DOZED
ORES ILL ELDERS
TRA AMI
ALTEADAPICINCH
ALTEN RARE DELI
SMELT OMER LAUD
HADES MASS ELBE

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
FIND THE SETTING TRICK

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 9 3 2
♥ 8
♦ A Q 8 7 5
♣ K 10 9 8

EAST
♠ A 6
♥ 10 4
♦ 10 4 3 2
♣ 7 6 4 3 2

SOUTH
♠ J 5 4
♥ A K Q 9 7 5 2
♦ 9
♣ A J

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♥ 1 ♠ Dbl Pass
4 ♥ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: King of ♠

When we were learning the game, we were told there are some things you "never" do. As we grew older, we found that what you should do is remove the use of the words "never" and "always" from your bridge vocabulary.

North's double of one spade was "negative," i.e., a takeout for the unbid suits. With interest in one suit, and only one, and eight tricks in hand, the vulnerable game was a reasonable shot and South took it.

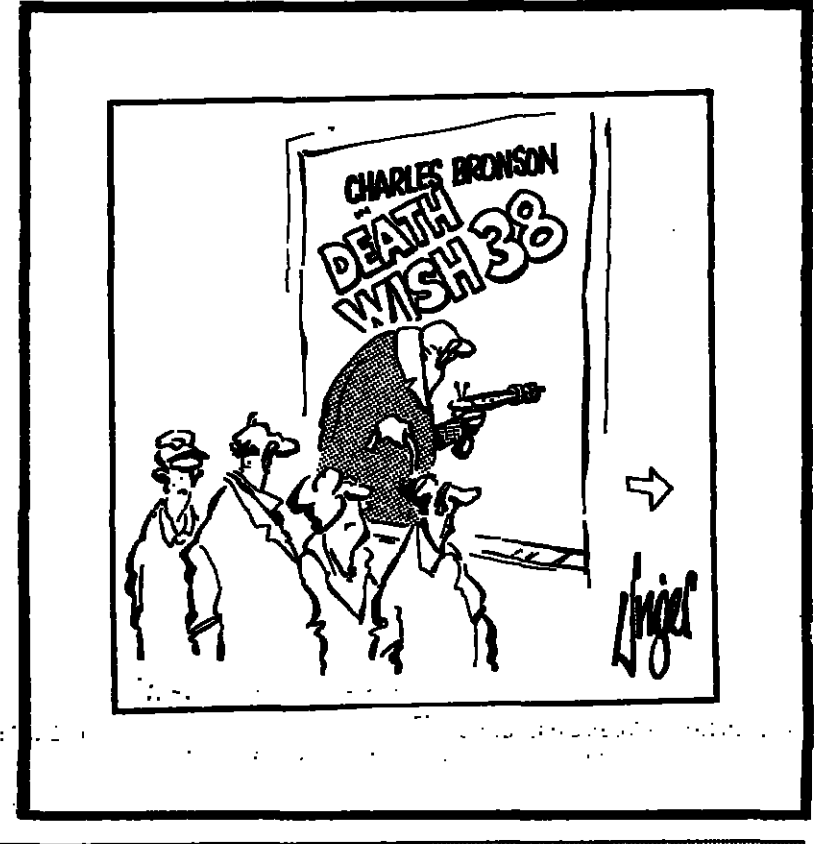
West led the king of spades. East

overtook with the ace and returned a spade. West cashed a third spade trick to complete the defensive book. On this trick East discarded a low diamond. West shifted to the queen of clubs and, when trumps were no worse than 3-2, declarer had the rest of the tricks.

East would have done better to discard a low club rather than a diamond, to deny any interest in that suit, but West must shoulder the blame for not defeating the hand. Since South had not preempted at his opening turn, and bid strongly later, it was naive of West to think his partner might have the ace of clubs.

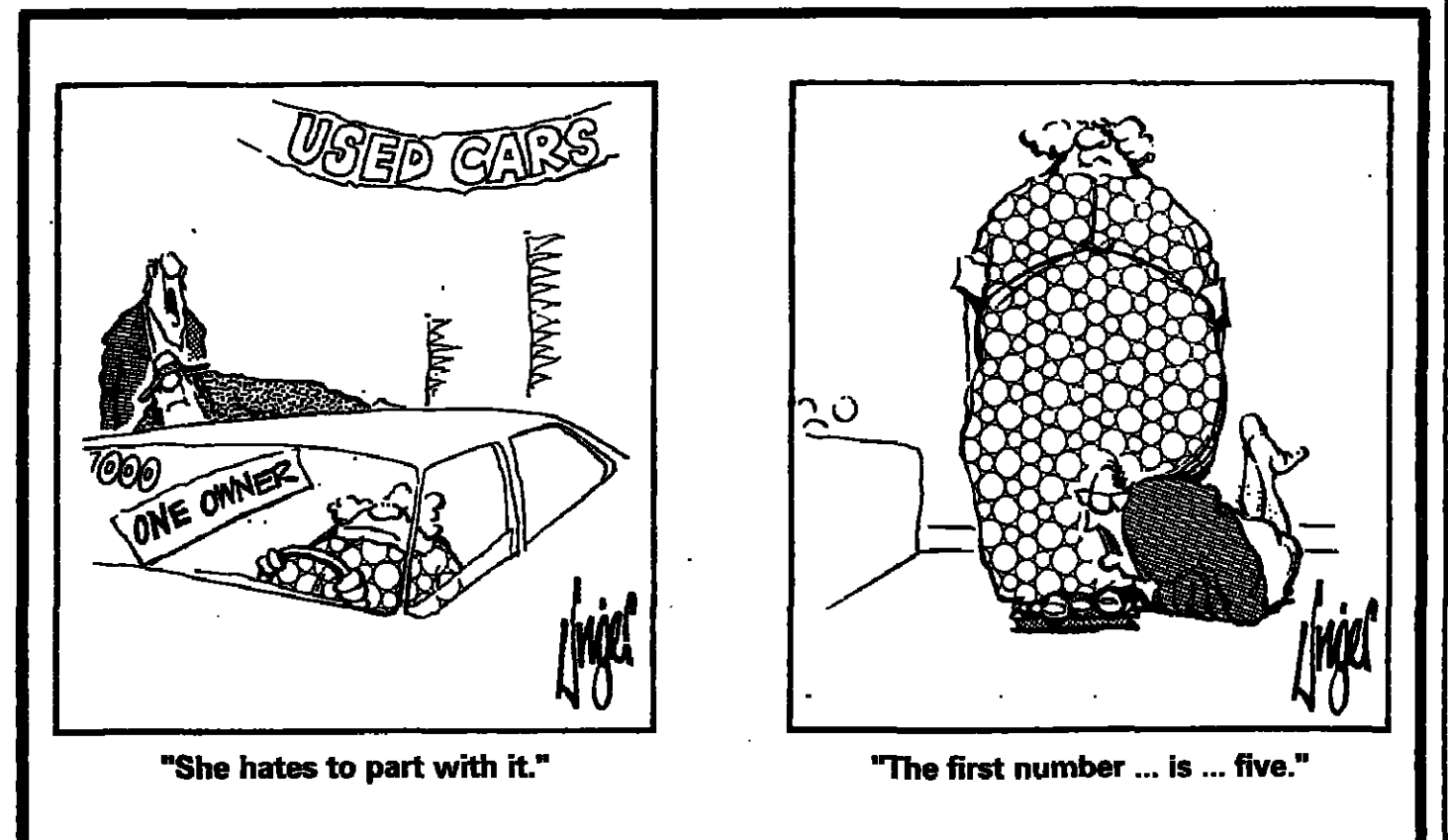
With the king of diamonds in front of dummy's ace-queen, West should have realized the defenders had no more tricks coming to them in the plain suits. If the contract could be defeated, the setting trick would have to come from the trump suit.

The only hope was that East held the ten of hearts and it could be used to uppercut declarer. West should have continued with a fourth round of spades and East can complete a winning defense by ruffing with the ten. That forces declarer to overruff with an honor and the jack of trumps is promoted to the setting trick.



YOUR STARS

- Aries** (March 21 - April 19)
You will be able to do something very much to your liking. However beware, do not neglect what has to be done. Your lucky numbers are 15 and 27. Do not go to extremes. Be selective.
- Cancer** (June 21 - July 20)
You will not be in the best of moods and should do your best not to get on anyone's nerves. Do not take any undue risks. A hobby you have been neglecting will give you a good deal of pleasure. Be forgiving.
- Libra** (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)
You will get unnecessarily alarmed about something that is unlikely to happen. And if it does it will not be nearly as serious as you appear to think. Nonetheless do make preparations for eventualities, do not just hope for the best. Be sincere.
- Capricorn** (Dec. 21 - Jan. 19)
If you have been invited make sure you are not late, but do not arrive early either. You should have a little more faith in yourself and confidence in others. You will know how to deal with a rather complicated situation. Be sensible.
- Taurus** (April 21 - May 20)
You will be able to do something to improve relations with your partner. You will be able to take some bad news in your stride. Avoid seeking to do too much all at once. Be moderate.
- Leo** (July 21 - Aug. 21)
You will be able to have a good talk and that will clear the atmosphere. You will be able to resolve a more personal matter. Make sure you do not confuse kindness with charity, although there is no harm in the latter either. Be considerate.
- Scorpio** (Oct. 23 - Nov. 22)
Having thought hard, you will now be able to make an important decision. Look out for those who are trying to deceive you. You would do well to exercise just a little more self-control. Be tolerant.
- Aquarius** (Jan. 20 - Feb. 19)
Something you had hoped would happen but not quite as you had hoped it would. If you go to extremes or exaggerate you are liable to spoil everything. Stick to your principles and do not lose the courage of your convictions. Be more patient.
- Gemini** (May 21 - June 20)
Your nerves will tend to be rather on edge so do try to take it easy. Something you had been anticipating will not now happen. You will not be sure whether to be glad or sorry. Be fair.
- Virgo** (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)
You will be able to achieve a greater harmony with your partner. You should not neglect your health. You would do well to listen to what others have to say. Be generous.
- Sagittarius** (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
Something you have been neglecting should be dealt with without further delay. You are liable to take too much for granted. Allow yourself a little more time for leisure pursuits. Be consistent.
- Pisces** (Feb. 20 - March 20)
You should not allow a certain degree of exuberance to run away with you. A friend will appreciate all the help you can give him. Take even better care when on the road. Avoid a life that is too sedentary and follow a balanced diet. Be scrupulous.



"She hates to part with it."

"The first number ... is ... five."

FILIPINO DIGEST

SNIPPETS

Lawyer slain, wife wounded: Cebu City — a Mandaue City lawyer was killed and his wife, the Cebu Schools Division superintendent, was wounded in an ambush in Barangay Pagsabungan, Mandaue City.

Lawyer Vicente Cabahug, 58, was driving the family car with his wife and a bodyguard when they were sprayed with bullets by a man. Cabahug was hit in the head and died instantly. His wife, Susana was wounded in the face by glass shards from the windshield. Susana was taken to the Cortes Hospital in Mandaue City.

Susana told newsmen she did not see the gunman as her eyeglasses fell during the ambush.

Awards for standouts: The awarding ceremonies for the 1990 Don Juan Sumulong Awards for Outstanding Citizens of Rizal is scheduled to be held at the Bahay Kubo Restaurant in Antipolo, Rizal.

The Don Juan Sumulong Foundation is an annual award given by the Don Juan Sumulong Foundation to citizens of Rizal who have made outstanding achievements in the arts, sciences, the professions, business and industry, public service and other fields of human endeavour.

It is being given in memory of the late Don Juan M. Sumulong, distinguished lawyer, senator and statesman.

Among the prominent citizens of Rizal expected to grace the awarding rites are House Majority Floorleader Francisco "Komong" Sumulong, Rep. Emigdio S. Tanjaito Jr., Rep. Jose Cojuangco Jr., Gov. Reynaldo San Juan, Vice-Governor Chito Baretto, the provincial board members, and the 14 mayors of the province.

Four drug pushers arrested: Four suspected drug pushers including an Army sergeant were arrested by PC Narcotics Command (Narcocom) agents in raids in Mandaluyong, Makati, and Las Pinas. Some P33,500 worth of shabu was seized from them.

Narcocom identified those arrested as Sgt Nicanor de Guzman, an AWOL military personnel, George Dee, Nelson Rosello and Oscar Blancafor.

Narcocom said De Guzman was arrested near his house on Francis St., Mandaluyong with 13 grams of shabu and paraphernalia for its use. Rosello was arrested while on his way to deliver shabu to a prospective buyer in Bel-air village in Makati.

In a raid on Dee's house in Vergonville Subdivision, Las Pinas, some 20 grammes of marijuana were confiscated from him.

De Guzman and Rosello allegedly named Dee as their source of illegal drugs.

Narcocom agents also raided the house of Vernon Bautista andmanuel Acad in Las Pinas but the two men eluded arrest. The raiders instead picked up Blancafor for possessing a gram of shabu.

Pretty singer shot in face: A pretty 20-year-old singer lost her good looks when she was shot pointblank in the face by her jealous lover in Cainta, Rizal.

Marilou Briones, 20, a singer of the El Barako disco pub on Ortigas Avenue and residing in San Roque, Cainta, is in serious condition in the hospital. She will have to undergo massive plastic surgery, doctors said.

Cainta Police Investigation Bureau chief Sgt. Honesto Argame identified Briones' attacker as Sonny Velez, of Taytay, Rizal. He is now detained at Cainta town jail on charges of frustrated homicide and illegal possession of firearm.

Investigators said Briones was singing on stage in El Barako when Velez and four companions arrived drunk.

Velez drunkenly requested Briones to sing their team song, witnesses told police.

Briones tried to calm him down but Velez instead pulled out his .38 "paltik" revolver and shot his girlfriend in the face.

Dole settles 3 labour disputes: Labour disputes in three Southern Tagalog firms — Lakeview Industrial Corp., Peter Paul Phils. Corp., and Blue Bar Coconut Phils. Inc. — were settled, said Labour Secretary Ruben Torres.

The dispute at Lakeview involving some 450 workers arose when the company decided to stop operations due to lack of demands for its products last Dec 1, 1988.

Last Feb 26, labour and management agreed that each affected employee be paid the following — 20 days pay per year of service; P2,000 financial assistance; and one month pay in place of the shutdown notice requirement.

The dispute at Blue Bar involving some 1,800 workers arose when management suspended 13 employees without consulting the workers' union.

Labour and management agreed that the suspension of the 13 workers will be accepted and that employees found positive as salmonella-shigella (a virus disease) carriers may be allowed to go on leave with pay provided they still have leave credits.

Peter Paul with some 1,800 workers also agreed to give in to the demands of the workers as provided for in the conciliation agreement forged by NCMB conciliator Pol de Jesus.

2 BIR men relieved: Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) Commissioner Jose U. Ong yesterday relieved two revenue officials at the Cordillera Autonomous Region (CAR) after a Cordillera BIR employee was caught accepting grease money from a taxpayer last week.

Relieved and transferred to the BIR men advisory council were regional director Max Gutierrez and regional district officer (RDO) Ben Perez.

BIR insiders said Gutierrez and Perez's new office has always been considered "home for the aged" or "freezer".

The two were replaced by Noli mapala and Angel Lumpias as acting BIR regional director and regional district officer respectively.

Gutierrez and Perez were relieved after one of the employees — a certain Rillera an alleged sister-in-law of Gutierrez — reportedly accepted P1,200 grease money in exchange for the settlement of a case with the BIR.

Rivera was arrested by National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) agents after receiving the marked money.

Meanwhile, the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office filed attempted estafa charges through falsification of public documents against a certain Garry Royo for trying to encash a BIR tax refund check issued to one Ronaldo Bautista by presenting a special power of attorney with the Land Bank of the Philippines. Bautista signature was found to have been forged.

Royo was arrested by BIR agents while encashing Bautista's P2,409.89 tax refund check last Jan 15.

Bicol policeman killer identified: A man jailed for illegal possession of a homemade gun two months ago turned out to be one of the five killers of a policeman in Bicol four years ago, Pasay City Police chief Lt. Col. Rogelio Domingo said.

Alfredo Dequilla, 42, alias benedicto San Diego and Dequi, of 1185 Antipolo St. Sampaloc, Manila, had been arrested by Pat Antonio Magdalo on Semantina St. shortly before midnight on Jan 10 for carrying a homemade .38 revolver.

But Lt. Felipe Napoles Jr., station commander of the San Lorenzo Ruiz Police Station in Camarines Norte, positively identified Dequilla as among the killers of his brother Fernando of the Daet Police Station.

Fernando was murdered by Dequilla's group on March 2, 1986, Napoles said.

Dequilla's co-accused who are still at large were identified by Napoles as Boy Lianto, Isabelo Valero, Elmer Demin, and Medel Abajero, napoles said.

Laguna woman robbed: A businesswoman was held up by seven men while on her way home in Sta Rosa, Laguna Wednesday night.

Vivian Velasco, 27, of Barangay Macabaling, Sta. Rosa, Laguna told police that two men in a motorcycle blocked their jeep at about 7:30 pm.

A red car with no licence plates came and five men with high-powered guns alighted and announced the holdup.

Velasco said the suspects took her wallet containing P10,000 and jewellery.

The suspects escaped towards Calamba, Laguna, she said.

Cattle rustlers hunted: The Bulacan PC-INP command launched a massive manhunt for a group of cattle rustlers believed hiding in Candaba, Pampanga.

PC intelligence reports said that the cattle rustlers, armed with Armaletes, are operating in Bulacan, Nueva Ecija and Pampanga. They had already stolen seven cows and seven carabaas last week in different barangays in San Miguel and San Ildefonso.

Capt. Eusebio Sarmiento, 175th PC company commander, sent soldiers and policemen to Candaba following reports that a truck loaded with stolen animals was seen in Barangay Mapanique, Candaba.

San Miguel Police chief Lt. Rufino Mendoza reported that last Feb 23, unidentified men entered a ranch in Barangay Pagala, San Miguel and took seven cows and loaded the animals in a truck.

Human rights: too often the words remain empty

By Jon Miller

BAGUIO CITY, The Philippines (WNL): The dictator is not only gone, but dead. A new constitution has been written and democratic institutions have been restored. The tide seems to have turned in the Philippine government's favour in the 20-year-old war against communist insurgents. But in spite of it all, the human rights issue won't go away.

Lately it has become a heavy liability for the government of President Corason C. Aquino. When she travelled to North America this past November to drum up support for her country's struggling economy, Aquino found herself face to face with placard-waving crowds demanding explanations for what many feel is a deteriorating human rights situation in the Philippines.

The protesters were armed with reports and statistics. They had names of victims and names of alleged perpetrators. And they had questions. Why has not a single person been convicted of a major human rights offense? Why is there still torture in Philippine jails? Why do government critics continue to be harassed, arrested, killed? And what, if anything, is being done about it?

Aquino's answer was that the issue that has blown out of proportion by extremist group on the left and the right. The government has well-established mechanisms for checking abuses, she explained, and it is sincere and diligent in its efforts.

Pablo Sanidad is not convinced. Sanidad, 45, whose father and brother were imprisoned by the late dictator, president Ferdinand Marcos, is national chairman of the Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG), an influential organisation grouping human rights lawyers that was founded during Marcos' regime of martial law. "On paper, this country is a human rights paradise," Sanidad says, sitting in his cluttered office in this mountain city 200 kilometres north of Manila. "We have a government that has signed almost all the international

conventions in the field of human rights. We have better provisions in our Bill of Rights than in the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution."

"But it's only words. If we could see that these words were being earnestly translated into action, then we could buy it, and we could even support it. But the truth is, the rhetoric is not supported by action — even at the upper levels."

Aquino, whose husband was imprisoned and killed while Marcos was in power, has been stung by allegations that the human rights situation has not improved under her administration. But Sanidad, who has been doing human rights work since the early 1970s, says that most of the problems that existed under Marcos still exist today.

According to Sanidad, the situation is especially difficult for lawyers who donate their services to people accused of being rebels or rebel sympathisers. "Once you defend people who are considered national security offenders, who are suspected of having committed crimes against the state, then according to the military you are also a participant — you share the politics of your clients. That is not the case as far as lawyers are concerned, just it wouldn't be the case with doctors or other professionals," he notes.

Sanidad denies charges that human rights advocates are motivated by a desire to undermine the government. At least in the case of lawyers, it simply isn't true, he says. In fact, about half of FLAG's 300 members hold government positions.

Yet he admits that his early human rights work was political: he was committed to doing what he could to remove Marcos. He led a boycott against rigged national elections in 1976, and ran for the position of vice governor in his home province — against a Marcos crony — and won.

When Marcos was finally ousted in 1986, Sanidad, like most human rights activists, was elated. He accepted an invitation to join the Aquino government as deputy labour minister, but



quit soon afterward, convinced that things in the country remained basically unchanged.

"During Marcos' time, most of us in human rights organisations believed that if Marcos went, then we would lose the reason for being organised," he recalls. "What we see today, however, is a repetition of all the things that were happening under Marcos. The arrests, the harassment, the violence. The

reason for our existing is still there."

The statistics, unreliable as they may be, appear to bear him out. According to Task Force Detainees — a group that, along with the London-based Amnesty International, has been accused of bias by the Aquino government — the incidence of abuse is increasing. The task force estimates that there are over 300,000 internal refugees, people

forced to flee their homes as the result of violence.

But who is really to blame? Surely the Aquino government is not directing its soldiers to abuse the citizenry. True, Sanidad says, but "you see, this government is not really in control. There are a lot of elements in the country that seem to be moving around and acting on their own, without any firm pattern of command from the centres of power."

Among these elements, he says, are armed anti-communist paramilitary units. Many of those units evolved from fanatical religious groups, criminal gangs and private armies paid by wealthy landowners. They have been the leading source of concern among international human rights-monitoring organizations.

Communication is also a major problem. Human rights-related directives issued by military or civilian leadership in Manila too rarely reach the regional or local levels, Sanidad explains. His experience has shown that when a provincial military commander actually cares about human rights, the situation in his area can improve dramatically. That proves that it is possible to control abuses. But the central government apparently doesn't want to ruffle feathers in the military's restive middle ranks.

Sanidad says that the military leadership, which is more accessible and accommodating than it was under Marcos, does not always understand the idea of protecting human rights. "I was invited by the military to deliver a lecture before a group of colonels and upper-class officers, and the topic that they gave me alone would show you their thinking," he recalls with a smile. "They wanted me to speak on 'Human Rights Versus the Application of Justice,' because it was their thinking that if you apply justice, there is an inevitable violation of human rights."

The very definition of the term "human rights" is a point of contention. "The government's Commission on Human Rights, established shortly after Aquino assumed power, now considers

such civil crimes as usury and theft to the human rights violations, and it acts more like a court of last resort or an ombudsman than a watchdog."

That angers private human rights groups, which claim that the government's definition is too broad to be of any use. They say the internationally accepted definition of human rights applies only to government agents or opposing armies with official belligerency status.

This would be just an academic point if it weren't for the fact that there is an undeclared war going on. Human rights advocates say that by considering crimes committed by anti-government rebels to be human rights abuses, the government is trying to steer attention away from its own abuses. The government, on the other hand, says that human rights groups are choosing sides by ignoring rebel violations.

"They are using their expanded definition of human rights as if it were an excuse" for military excesses, Sanidad says, adding that the government has a special responsibility to protect its citizens from the sort of abuse that was institutionalised during Marcos' regime.

But hasn't political violence come to be accepted as a part of life in the Philippines? Yes, Sanidad says, to a certain extent, but the government must accept some of the blame.

Commenting on the issue, Bishop Francisco Claver, one of the president's earliest advisers and now a member of the faculty of Ateneo University, put his finger squarely on the problems facing President Aquino: "Remember the prediction of her husband. He said that anyone who came after Marcos would fall flat on his face. Keeping that in mind, (Correy) has managed to stay on her feet for almost four years. Everything considered, she's doing all right."

The bishop continued, "I think our biggest problem is democracy. We are trying to work in a democratic way, when our whole history, our cultural tradition, is feudal and authoritarian. That's the conflict."

Revilla: wit and humour

JOHNNY Revilla's present status is indeed a product of hardwork and discipline. His sacrifices, though, paid off. He has gone a long way and, gradually yet firmly, is heading for the top. Johnny's success is not a 24-hour reality. It was arduous attempt but he didn't fail. What he's reaping now are fruits of his fortitude, dedication, determination, confidence and his unrelenting intention to climb up the ladder of success in life.

Johnny has never thought of reaching the brink of falling flat on the ground. It's the same factor that has launched his career into orbit and has propelled him to fame and glory. But it's his brains that made all the difference — proving the ineffable superiority of genuine talent.

You ask me of Johnny Revilla. I will tell you everything. He is, as you may suspect, a simple man, a good man, a man unafraid to work with his hands. Yet he chose to live by his wits, which he keeps about him in every circumstance. Johnny Revilla has done miraculous things. He has scaled astounding heights. He has made important contacts. He has, in other words, gone where no Revilla had dared to go before.

If there's one wacky guy who would surely catch your funny bones off guard, it's Johnny Revilla. Through channel 4's weekday morning programme Windows (where he's a co-host opposite the beautiful Katherine de Leon), Johnny has found a place where he can make maximum use of his academic background and family breeding. His suave and pleasant aura immediately catches you where it's supposed to. His hilarious jokes grab your funny bones and shake them. Everybody who knows him would acknowledge the fact that Johnny is a witty wise-crack who try very hard not to run out of creative juices.

If there's saying Johnny Revilla believes in strongly, it's the famous one that goes "Humour is the spice of life." He believes in this since his childhood days.

"When I was younger, one of the things I wanted to do was to become a stand-up comic," discloses Johnny. "I like performing in front of people. My friends, at that time, were much older than I was. They would invite me over to their houses when they had guests for me to tell my jokes to. Half of the jokes I know now, I can't repeat on print or on television."

Johnny got a chance to utilise his sense of humour to the near in Windows. When his co-host Katherine de Leon is on a serious topic, Johnny would throw in something pertaining to the subject but off-the-wall. He's got a lot of explaining to do to Windows' avid viewers for the charac-

ters of the "revilla" pop-life programme whom he himself portrays.

"The reason the characters come in the show is because it's an outlet for me," Johnny explains. "I've always had this fascination for stand-up comics. Although the show tends to be a little bit more serious because we have our open forum segment. Windows is generally on the serious nature except when I cook. You see, they always wanted me to be somewhat kooky, you know. It's fine with me because I'm normally like that. So, I fool around when I do the cooking segment."

And that, Johnny does. Would you believe he did a cooking script in which he played a character named "Julia Signon Daza." That's a combination of Julia Childs, Armand Signon-Reyna and Nora Daza. All three are known for their cooking programmes on television. In portraying this out-of-this-world character, Johnny dresses up as a woman — complete with a bra and the whole nine yards. At one time, viewers and crew of Windows alike almost rolled on floors in spontaneous laughter when Johnny wore a Dracula outfit while cooking *dinaguan*. But don't get him wrong. Johnny, the culinary buff that he is, can cook in real life.

But how would he describe his own sense of humour?

"Well, I like life," Johnny starts. "I think life without laughter is like 'What's the point of living?' — that sort of thing. I mean, it's fun to laugh. I can laugh at myself, with myself. I try not to laugh at somebody. It's great to have a good time. Especially in the morning when people wake up grumpy, and you laugh a little. That's a plus."

Speaking of mornings, Johnny admits he gets up on the wrong side of the bed most of the times. "I normally do. It takes me a long time to get going. That's why when I'm on windows which is aired at 8:30 in the morning, I have to really wake-up. I would scream. Like this." He screamed which startled you truly, my tape recorder going airborne for two seconds.

On the other hand, Johnny Revilla is also a serious person, liberal and open-minded. A La Salle product, Johnny worked for a corporation dealing in trade around a decade ago. After a while, he felt that he was getting stagnant. "My real passion in life is car designing. Without schooling, I can get a car and draw it to scale with my own design and concept. I wanted to go to the States and pursue that career. I basically love cars."

Eventually, his father reluctantly gave Johnny \$750 and his plane ticket and that was it. "I

was using my own from that point status. It was time I grew up. I decided to go to school in the States and to work. But I didn't get to take-up car designing because an art school in Pasadena, California required me to attend eight hours a day which was difficult for me since I was working at nights."

After spending several years in America, Johnny thinks highly of the country. To him, it is the "land of opportunity."

"I love the States and I enjoyed it simply because of the opportunities it gives people — no matter what they say about ugly Americans who take advantage of us and all that."

Johnny has important things to speak about on the relationship between us Filipinos and the Americans. And he's got a good point, too.

"It's really a funny thing to think about," says our Male Box feature. "Here we are insulting the Americans with a 'We want you out of here' attitude. But when there's a crisis, who do we turn to? The Americans. Even a lot of us who are fighting against them would die for a green card. I don't know if this still exists but at one time, half of the people in the government had a green card, ready to go in case of whatever."

Incidentally, Johnny is the third of seven children — one of them television personality Tina Revilla. It's interesting to know that he's the only boy among them. How does it feel being in this kind of unusual situation? Johnny answers that ... and more.

"I'm blessed with the fact that I was born with seven of the most beautiful and wonderful people I know," he states. "There's not a bad egg in the family except maybe me." Laughter. "All my sisters are just terrific people. I never wished I had a brother. My father made sure that I had male friends. Enough of these playful with doll stuff. Take up judo, take up karate. Be a man. It was like, 'But Dad, I'm only two-years old. Gimme a break.'"

Finally, we arrive at a conclusion: Johnny Revilla is very human. Behind that ultra-good looks and super bearing is a boy struggling to shed off his adult manhood. He can one refuse Johnny's pranks and mischief when they hit you right at the center of your "laughter box." Except for the tedious discipline of having to be in cost-and-practically every day, there's nothing pretentious in the TV show host who is out to make wacky and fun-loving individuals out of you. Wild? I'm not sure. Over the edge? Just maybe. Funny? Quite. Charming? A bit. Wacky? Very, very, very much. You don't believe me? Go and ask all of his seven sisters. They know.

Mirror, mirror on the wall

THE Philippines is known as the land of beautiful women. The blood line which is the mixture of the Eastern and Western blood have done wonders. So much so that we have produced world class legendary beauties. Take the case of Susan Magalona. We also have Chona Recto Kaste, Diana Jeanne Lopez, Ting Ting Cojuangco, Claudia Bernudez and Nikki Prieto.

Our beautiful women in the person of Gemma Cruz, Gloria Diaz, Aurora Pijuan, Margie Moran and Melanie Marquez made it to the international scene.

But Filipinas are not only beauties, they are also brainy. Take the case of Criselda Lontok, the socialite who is in business. Former Miss Philippines Nini Ramos Licaros is a big time business woman with wide ranging interests.

And with the new people, whose wives will do anything to belong, the race is on. Women's vanity has become a classical issue. Many will go out of their way to outdo one another. And when that happens, is disaster close behind?

Today's rage to make it in the nation's high society is all time high. Many people believe that photos in the newspaper make them belong to the high society. The race for media exposure is on. It is as if a picture in a newspaper makes them the toast of Manila's society. Some new women go to the extent of hiring a press agent for their media projections. And it is pathetic! With the new trend in advertising, the new people are just too awed by their new found wealth. In order to flaunt the newly acquired riches, they follow the new wealth syndrome that they should be spotted in the media created "in" places, shopping at the "in" shops; they should be seen in the company of "in" people. They have forgotten that, "True wealth speaks in whispers."

For example, not many of them are aware that people of importance go to Rome, Milan or Tokyo to buy their wardrobe. Names like Emilio Pucci, Balmain and Valentino are preferred rather than C&A, YSL or PC. In leathercraft, Enzo de Roma and Rafale are tops when it comes to shoes and Roberto de Camarino are the most expensive bags.

It is also anathema to go to Europe during the summer months of June to August. Europe is for tourists who avail of the 50 per cent discount. The time to go to Europe is in the fall when the theatre is in season and then winter when the Opera Ball in Vienna as well as the cultural season ends.

But of course, any excuse is good excuse to flaunt the

wealth. That is why we have fashion victims in our midst. They have the money to buy commercial commodities, except good taste.

Many people have that colonial mentality that America is the greatest. They have been living in the lost grandeur of the past, when America was great. Today, it is the greatest American disaster. But some natives still cling to that Great America notion.

One perfect example of this is in the person of Ms. Femme Fatale. Ms. Femme Fatale is the wife of our neighbourhood merchant of death. Her husband made his fortune selling arms and military hardware to the former regime. Yes, those hardware used to suppress our civil liberties. And they made a lot.

Miss Femme Fatale thinks she is God's gift to men. She has that fantasy that she is desirable to all men. She even brags of her former boyfriend having gone crazy for her. If there is some truth to it, the former boyfriend must have indeed been crazy!

Anyway, our subject, like the rest of her tribe, boasts of her first acquisition, a posh house in a Makati village. Not surprisingly the house was done by the favourite decorator of the nouveau riche. She has to, for notwithstanding her money, she needs some lessons in the refinements in life. And Mr. Decorator gives free lessons on "Gracious living." And her house can be best described as the Philippine branch of Macy's. I think Gramps is too classy for them.

The new found affluence must be just too overwhelming. Little did she know that people of consequence do not eye to America where she buys her things. And so periodic trips had to be made.

One night, she was telling her friends that she did her wardrobe shopping in Neiman Marcus, Saks Fifth and Nordstrom in the West Coast, where she bought all the expensive dresses, shoes and bags. It must be quite a shopping. Little did she know that people of consequence do not eye to America where she buys her things. And so periodic trips had to be made.

No wonder Ms. Femme Fatale enjoyed the shopping in Los Angeles. The glitters of show business is all around. That is her kind of life. She wants to shine, a star that never was. She needed that glittering image for she is too diminutive to be noticed. It is not surprising that in her quest for attention, her appearance proved disastrous. She seems unable to put herself together. One look at her will remind all of us of a cross between Miss Muppet and Cabbage Patch.

But of course, any excuse is good excuse to flaunt the

wealth. That is why we have fashion victims in our midst.

What is Mt Banahaw all about?

EVERYTIME I arrange for a new group to spend a weekend in Mt Banahaw, I am asked what the mountain is all about, what experiences could they expect out of the visit, and what are the preparations it entails. To these inquiries, the ideal answers are simply put by my friend, Boy Montebiano, who has a native lodge there. He tells the aspiring weekenders that "Mt Banahaw is a place in which to relax and breathe fresh air. Have no other expectations. Just bring a good pair of walking shoes or rubber slippers and bathing clothes which should be modest enough in deference to the religious nature of the people residing there."

Mt Banahaw is a globally-known mystical mountain in Quezon Province with an elevation of 7,100 feet. One can go there via the town of Dolores which is about one-and-a-half hour's drive from Makati. Besides the religious sects and cults headed by priestesses which were founded as early as the 1800's, there have been mysterious stories and legends about this sacred mountain which have become her main attraction.

My memory of my first trek to Mt Banahaw has been very hazy. I remember going there in 1975 with a group of friends led by a psychic healer called Marita. During that time, I hardly knew what "psychic" meant. I remember enjoying a hearty lunch on a make-shift table, saying "ssarraapp" while eating with our hands, taking a pinch of sand from a can and scooping rice from a banana leaf "table cloth." I remember going along the stony muddy path up the mountain (which I transferred to the new wallet. Come to think of it, I never really ran out of money for as long as that leaf remained in my wallet!) I remember Marita going into a trance (at that time, I thought it was merely a fainting spell) and mumbling some things which seemed important enough to the people now known as "Kalbaryo" looking for a certain kind of leaf

called "kayumyum" as if it was the most important thing in the world then. (I have kept that leaf dried inside my wallet for the past 14 years because it was supposed to give me good luck.)

In 1981, our Edgar Cayce Study Group headed by Jimmy Licauco planned a week-end trip to Mt. Banahaw. We were so excited about it and we kept asking Jimmy what we would find there, but just like Boy Montebiano, Jimmy cut us short by saying that there was nothing to expect there. My memory of this second trip, which for some time I remembered as my first, seemed as hazy as my 1975 trip. There were only two distinct things that I retained about that trip. One was the very loud sound of silence that I sensed upon entering the vicinity of the mountain; and the second was my shock when I discovered that the "Boy" who was to guide us turned out to be Boy Fajardo, a long-lost "barkada" in college, and I was doubly shocked to find out that he was then considered an international "hilothebalist." I remember walking with him on long stretches of rocky earth listening to his long-playing explanations of esoteric philosophies that I hardly understood then.

It was Boy Fajardo's patience and amiable hospitality that made my successive journeys to Mt Banahaw very meaningful and interesting. He used to entertain us in his small cozy and energy-filled mountain house with stories of the mystical mountain. He acted as our first "Pator" (Banahaw very meaningful and interesting. He used to entertain us in his small cozy and energy-filled mountain house with stories of the mystical mountain. He acted as our first "Pator" (Banahaw's term for "Guide") and initiated us into the rituals which "first-timers" are required to undergo.

The rituals consist of the cleansing of the body in Sta. Lucia, the cleansing of the spirit in San Jacob, and the presentation of oneself in the "Presentahan."

To reach Sta Lucia, one has to go down a very steep canyon from which the sound of the rushing waters below could be heard. During my earlier trips, we had to hold on to a rope bannister that swung to the extreme left or right as the body swayed in the same direction. It is now much easier to go down as 285 cement steps have been installed. The whole mountain is treated as a holy place and lighting candles on the different spots is an important act of respect for the spirits there. Before stepping into the waters of Sta Lucia, we had to light candles on a huge blackened boulder which serves as an altar in that area. According to some clairvoyants, there is a huge cathedral inside this "altar stone." We would spend some moments in front of the candle to pray and then proceed to dip in the waist-deep pool at the farthest end of the stream.

The amazing thing about this pool is that at first contact with one's body, the water feels very cold. But once the body immerses in the water, it becomes so incredibly warm. The ritual of this "baptism-Banahaw-style" is to dunk the body three times. In this area droplets of water keep falling from the roots of the trees up the mountain wall and as these droplets hit the rocks above, they spray on the swimmers' faces. The sensation is so invigorating. The residents who frequent the place informed us that these drops of healing water improve the eyesight so I've always made it a point to look up and let them fall straight into my eyes.

The next step after the first dip is to go under the "male" waterfall, the pressure of which is so strong that it almost mercilessly whips the body. But I discovered after many years that this power-

ful downward rush of water can be a treat to a natural hydro-massage on my back, neck, buttocks, arms; a saving grace which usually distracts me from the force of this waterfall is the recurrent rainbow that would magnificently drape the water enveloping my body. I have been advised that the emergence of the rainbow is a sign that a healing is taking place and it is important to stay under the waterfall until the rainbow disappears. It is also important to drink of the water three times to balance the temperature in and out of the body.

The second waterfall is described to be "female." One has to go inside a naturally carved grotto on the wall of the mountain where nurturing showers gently but profusely flows on the whole body.

(To be continued next week)



A huge rock altar at the entrance of Sta. Lucia. Regular visitors to Mt. Banahaw are, from bottom: Chit Hontiveros, Aleli Pansacola, Riza Regis (writer) and Jenny Serrano.

Alvarez' travels on a different plane

THE first time I met and interviewed Roy Alvarez was for a sensational magazine program called "All Saints Day Special." I was amazed by the seeming incongruity of it all: I mean, well, here's this very macho action star who you'd expect to be concerned with such mundane things as body-building or martial arts. Yet what did we talk about? Astral projection, life after death, and other spiritual matters. He was so erudite, he seemed to me like a guru of sorts.

"I proposed that we meet again and talk at greater length about his experiences and learnings about astral projection and other tangential subjects." Even while he was still in grade school, Roy was already intrigued by such philosophical questions as: what is life? what is death? where do people go after death?

He could find nobody to help him answer these questions. He was afraid to ask the priests, because he knew they would just brush him off, saying that those are mysteries and not meant to be solved by mere mortals.

He longed so much for more learning, but felt cramped by the moral and religious strictures that abound in our country. But then, he left the Philippines and went to Canada — and it was there that he finally began to learn, no longer fettered by prevailing belief systems.

Not content with the second-hand knowledge one gets from books, he hungered for the first-hand learning that comes from experience. This yearning of his, he feels must have served as a knock on the door of wisdom — and finally the master or teacher came to him. "Knock, and it shall be opened unto you," he quotes. And adds, "When the student is ready, the master will come."

He shares some of this learning with us: **The Five Bodies.** Each person has five bodies — physical, the emotional or astral, the mental, the causal, and the soul. All of these must develop together. **Astral Projection,** which is an experience where your astral body leaves your physical body, happens because the physical body cannot cope with the development of the astral body. So the astral body goes out to gain more development without being constrained by the physical body (much like Roy had to leave the country so he could start learning).

Dreams are Messages: During sleep, one undergoes what is called an out-of-the-body experience (OOBE), and encounters symbols, which we should learn how to decode. People dream and don't understand what they have dreamed of. One should know, because these are messages from the spirit.

Whether we like to or not, we project, especially in our dream state. Roy suggests, that what is called **hypnagogic** happens when a person projects, during sleep, that has such difficulty re-entering the physical body that the silver cord which connects the astral to the physical body is severed — and the person's physical body dies.

The first experience Roy had in astral projection came while he was just about to sleep. He fell himself swinging from left to right — then suddenly he found himself facing his physical body still lying on the bed.

He eventually developed some exercises which gave him the ability to project his astral body at will — but he stresses that the most basic pre-requisite to astral projection is a strong faith in God.

On Meditation. To be able to understand the spirit, one should keep the mind silent. This is the process of meditation. For me, meditation is a form of prayer. The other form of prayer. Not the kind where you constantly ask for things; you do the talking. Why should I ask when God already knows everything that I want? I said, may be it's time for me to keep silent, and to listen. Then maybe God will tell me what he wants, and give me answers to the questions that I have been asking.

More Than Faith. Sometimes, though, he feels that plain faith is not enough. You have to experience something to make your faith even stronger. In astral projection he says, once you've acclimatized yourself to being out of your physical body, you start looking around — and the first thing you notice is a blinding light. Blinding because it is very bright — but it does not hurt the eyes. Then, somehow, you know that there is a God. You know it because you have experienced it.

Unlocking Mysteries. Through astral projection, you can unlock the mysteries of the universe to talk about it for fear that some readers may think him weird, I have learned from other sources that astral travellers can meet creatures from other dimensions, and further expand their learning by communicating with these creatures.

Roy contents himself by saying: "By understanding death, you no longer fear it, and you understand life. By understanding life, you gain more understanding of death." (Whew! heavy ba?)

There is something else remarkable about Roy. In a world where marriages are not expected to last, his marriage has endured for 15 years. But about shaky relationships, he says, they are not for others to judge. Each person has something to learn from every experience, even from a broken marriage. For all we know, it was

necessary for that person to go through a traumatic relationship in order to enhance his over-all development.

He told me in our earlier interview that his greater understanding of life and death has made him a more sensitive, more intense actor. It is a lot easier for him to get into the character he's playing, because he understands the character more readily.

He has never tried to influence his family to go into what he is doing in his spiritual life. He only tries to present them with opportunities for bettering themselves, and he sets the example. Again, he says, "when the student is ready, the teacher will come."

Advice To Readers: Roy has some parting words for our readers: "Just be aware of causes and effects. If we live by the effect, then it is hard to change things. One must be aware of the cause of everything, so that the effect is good."

Upon my comment that our reader may find this message too

enigmatic, he attempted to explain: How do you find out the cause? Okay, if person has cancer, the cancer is an effect. Find out what caused the cancer. So you will be aware of what not to do, or what not to experience, because there is awareness already. But if you are just aware of how to fight cancer, then you will just have to wait for cancer to come, to get a solution. You're not preventing it."

"It's the same with the problems of the nation," he adds. "In order to deal with the problems of the nation, you have to deal with the issues, not the personalities. That's basically what I feel. That's the message I want to give the readers: just deal with the issues."

Roy could write a book, for sure. But right now, he's busy writing something else. A script. But I'm not saying for what. The whole thing is still under wraps, and I don't want to pre-empt him. That might cause a bad effect!



Roy Alvarez flying high.

Imelda afraid of weight

By William M. Reilly

NEW YORK (UPI) — With jury selection dragging and a judge saying he was willing to accept a smaller pool of potential panelists than previously sought, Imelda Marcos was worried about her weight.

The former Philippine first lady, on trial with her husband, Ferdinand Marcos, for siphoning money from the Philippine treasury, prosecutors say the Marcoses, with Khushoggi's help, transferred more than US\$ 160 million from the Philippines and invested it in Manhattan real estate.

Thirty-one people have been selected for a pool of potential jurors to hear the case against Marcos and Khushoggi. A pool of about 60 people had originally been sought, from which a final panel of 12 jurors and six alternates would be selected to hear the case.

With the process dragging, US district judge John Keenan said he now could settle for a pool with as few as 45.

Glynis Burnham, 39, of the Bronx said she had heard of Ferdinand and Marcos as "The president of the Philippines."

"What about Mrs Marcos?" she was asked. "She's his wife," replied Burnham with a shrug of her shoulders. "That she's called the 'Iron Butterfly,' evoking a tight smile from Mrs Marcos."

"What about Mr Khushoggi?" "Just that he's a billionaire," she said.

Khushoggi's eyes seemed to light up behind his horn-rimmed glasses and he showed the trace of a smile. "If he is a billionaire, will you hold that against him?" she was asked. "No," she replied.

During Thursday's proceedings, an executive with a company that imports tuna from the Philippines was picked for the pool of potential jurors after it was determined he was not biased towards either side in the case. An American telephone telegraph executive and a postal worker were also selected for the pool.

Meanwhile, the Daily News reported a government lawyer from the Philippines said Imelda Marcos wrote President Bush offering to help track down the allegedly hidden fortune of her late husband in a bid to "weasel out" of her racketeering trial.

From the provinces

LAOAG CITY: Trade and Industry Secretary Jose Concepcion Jr. was asked to help increase the volume of cheap cement allotted for end-users in Ilocos Norte and this city.

In a letter sent recently to Concepcion, Laoag Councilor Cua Bee Jr. requested that at least 2,000 bags of portland, primero and pozzolan cement be allotted daily, except Saturdays and Sundays, to meet the demand of end-users in Ilocos Norte.

This would beef up the stocks of cement being sold at government price at the "Tulong sa Tao" retail outlet here.

He launched the project to stop cement overpricing. Provincial DTI Director Ben Garcia and Kalayaan Commodities Corp branch manager Sebastian Moll are assisting the councilor in the implementation of the project.

See said that the shortage of cement here is caused by the inability of the Bacnotan Consolidated Inc. based in La Union to deliver enough supply. It can deliver only 1,000 bags every week.

He asked the DTI to monitor the deliveries of the allotment to prevent sabotage of the project.

MARAWI CITY: A French priest and his 29-year-old niece were released by their kidnappers after a Muslim leader promised to pay \$50 a month in protection money to their captors.

Michel de Gigord, the French clergyman, and his niece, Benedicte de Gigord, were turned over to Muslim lawmaker Binasing Macarabon and a Catholic priest in Madamba town in Lanao del Sur province, some 800 kilometers (500 miles) south of Manila.

"I am terribly frightened because this is my first time to come to Mindanao. I will go home on the first available flight back to France," said Benedicte de Gigord.

The priest was first kidnapped in February, 1985 when he was held by Muslim gunmen for two weeks before being freed after payment of a ransom.

Some 300 policemen surrounded the hideout of the five-man gang holding the two French nationals on the outskirts of Madamba, but could not launch an attack

because of threats by the kidnappers to kill their hostages.

The provincial commander of Lanao del Sur, Lieut Col Omar Manabilang, said negotiators agreed to sign an agreement to pay the "protection money" the kidnappers were demanding so the French priest and his niece could be freed.

The five men involved in the kidnapping were not Muslim rebels, but criminals who specialize in kidnapping foreigners, Manabilang said.

BALANGA, Bataan: Lieut Col Ramsey L. Ocampo, Bataan PC-INP commander, urged rebel returnees and soldiers in this province to bury the hatchet and forget the past conflicts in the spirit of reconciliation.

Speaking before rebel returnees and soldiers who attended a get-together party at the camp of the 160th PC company in Dinalupihan, Ocampo called on them to engage in income-generating activities and help each other become productive and useful citizens.

Ocampo said that he was delighted by their decision to rejoin the mainstream of society instead of waging a war against the government. He asked the former communist rebels to call on their former comrades still in the hills to surrender.

The Bataan PC-INP chief urged the rebel returnees' families and relatives to help in seeing to it that the former communist guerrillas totally sever their link with the underground movement and lead a peaceful and useful life.

In another occasion, Gov. Leonardo B. Roman said the national leadership is doing all it can to assist the former rebels start a new life citing the P8,000 loan being extended to each deserving rebel returnee by the Department of Local Government under the national reconciliation and development programme.

The governor said the applications for loans by the deserving rebel returnees in Bataan are being processed by the local government department's office here under Felipe J. Nisay. He said the loans are expected to be released this week.

In their talks at the Dinalupihan get-together, Vice Gov. Serafin Q. Roman and Mayor Lucila P. Payumo said they were happy for the "homecoming" of the rebel returnees. They expressed hopes that those who are still active in the struggle will give up for good.

The mayor, whose husband, the late Dinalupihan

Mayor Jose C. Payumo Jr. was slain by suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels in an ambush, said she could still feel the pain by the death of her husband but "the time has come to forgive those who had wronged him."

The vice-governor said the execution of the Romanian communist leader was an indication that communism has ceased to be a dominant factor in the lives of the people of Romania. He said that it was high time local communist rebels renounce and leave this godless ideology.

The day-long "reunion" was sponsored jointly by the 160th PC company led by Capt. Fortunato M. Bundalian, the Dinalupihan "Malasimbo" Jaycees, and the Dinalupihan Lions Club in co-ordination with Orani Vice-Mayor Jose C. Leoncio and his wife, the former Zenaida Manalo.

MASBATE, Masbate: Constabulary provincial commander Col Antero K. Javier dispatched an elite team of soldiers to hunt the killers of American rancher Steward Frank Raab who was attacked in Milagros town.

Sources at Camp Boni Serrano said that Raab, 76, long-time resident of the province, was shot by alleged New People's Army rebels after he refused to pay revolutionary taxes amounting to P720,000.

Last year, a number of labourers in the ranch owned by the late Antonio Avelino, the son of former senator Jose Avelino, were killed when alleged NPA rebels raided the place and took away firearms and ammunition.

MANILA: Siony Flores, Soroptimist International governor for the Philippines Region (SIPR), urged all Soroptimists to intensify the campaign for non-violence and perseverance in upholding the supremacy of the law.

"This call becomes more important at this time in view of the killing of Gen. Oscar Florendo and the recent fatal shooting in Cebu of lawyer Cabahug, husband of superintendent of schools Susana (Nani) Cabahug, regional chairman for the XIIth biennial conference of the Soroptimists scheduled in Cebu Plaza on April 27-29, 1990.

Cabahug and his wife were about to leave their residence when he was shot dead. Nani was also critically wounded, Flores said.

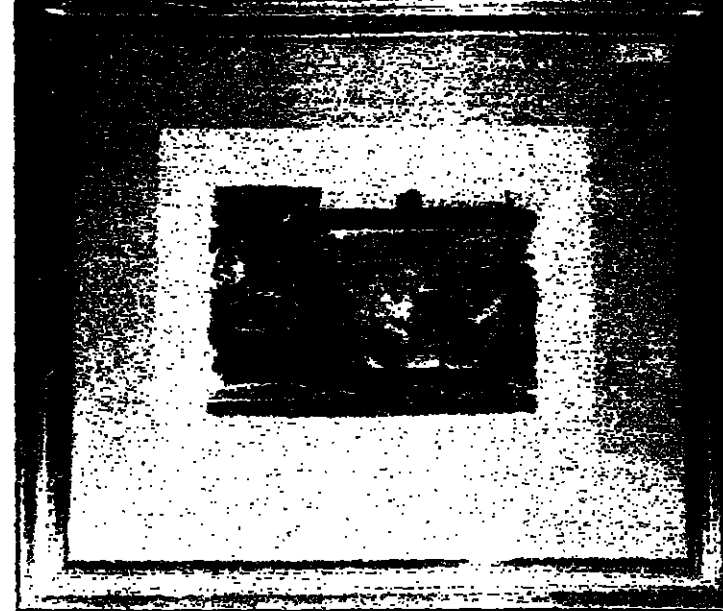
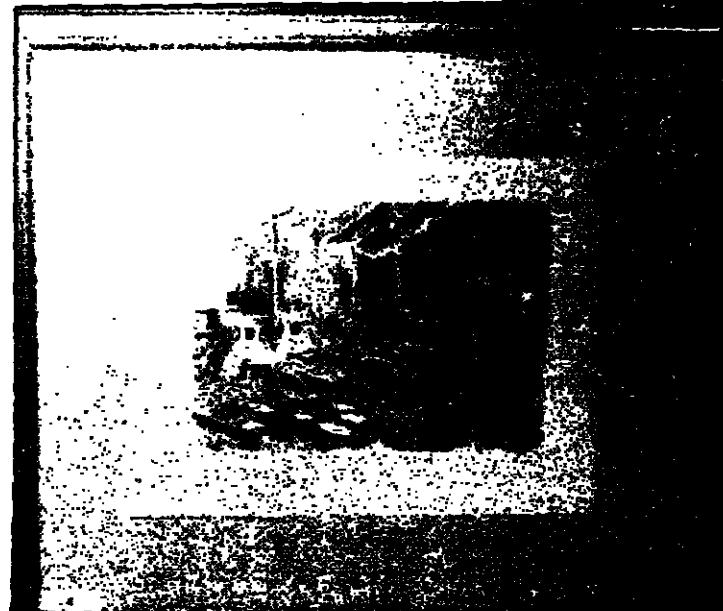
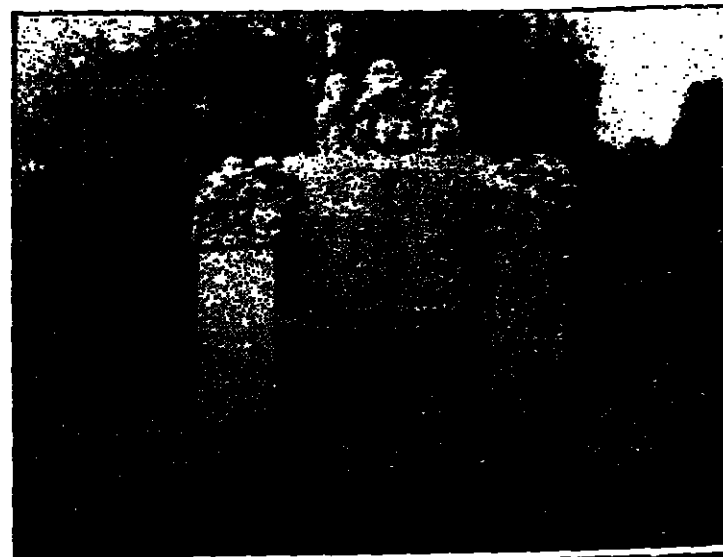
Soroptimists are requested to pray for the early recovery of Nani who is in critical condition in a Cebu hospital.



Withdraw U.S bases

Anti-bases activists in the Philippines dressed in native costumes demand the withdrawal of U.S. bases in the country in a demonstration outside the American embassy in Manila recently. The Philippine Senate plans to investigate the role of the U.S. in last December's bloody coup attempt that nearly toppled President Corazon Aquino. (Reuter).

EVENTS



Edouard Marcel Sandoz at the Ghadir Gallery

THE Ghadir Gallery is currently holding an exhibition of the Swiss artist, Edouard Marcel Sandoz.

Sandoz was born in Basle (Switzerland) in 1881. He studied at the Ecole des Arts Industriels in Geneva before moving to Paris in 1904 where he studied sculpture and painting at the Ecole Nationale des Beaux Arts with Antonin Mercier, Injalbert and Cormon.

In 1907 Sandoz established his Paris-based studio. He resided and worked alternatively in Paris and Lausanne where he died in 1971.

As an artist Sandoz worked as a painter, as a ceramist and above all as a

sculptor. His creations range from small precious and semi-precious stone sculptures to monumental pieces either of stone or bronze. He mastered the art of rare patina on bronze and his mind, always geared towards research, took him into the field of light-games applied to theatrical stage-settings.

A nature-lover, he let plants inspire most of his oil paintings. Animals and human beings dominate his sculpted productions. Placing the artwork in an adequate environment was always his main concern.

A keen and permanent observer of the world around him, he never parted with paper, pencil and water-colour

set, endlessly sketching people, animals, landscapes and flowers.

Among many other distinctions, Sandoz was: Doctor Honoris Causa es Sciences of the University of Lausanne (Switzerland).

— Commander of the French Legion d'Honneur

— Commander of the French National Merit

— Commander of the Ordre des Arts et Lettres

— Member of French Academie des Beaux Arts

— Chevalier of the Belgian Order of Leopold

as well as corresponding member of

a number of Academies and Cultural Committees in Argentina, Germany, India, Italy, Portugal and Spain.

He won many prizes and his major exhibitions included:

Monza (Italy): Grand Prix as part of the French Section; 1913 Gand (Belgium): Grand Prix; 1925 Paris (France): Decorative Arts, Grand Prix for Ceramics, Medal of Honour; 1932 Paris (France): Colonial Exhibition, Grand Prix; 1937 Paris (France): Grand Prix of the French Section of Bronze Sculptures; 1939 New York (USA): International Exhibition with the French Section; 1939 New York (USA): International Exhibition with

the Swiss Section; 1955 Paris (France): Societe Nationale des Beaux Arts, Grand Prix Puvis de Chavanne; 1956 Paris (France): International Exhibition of Monumental Architecture, Grand Prix; 1961 Basle (Switzerland): Personal Exhibition; 1968 Zurich (Switzerland): Salon des Artistes Francais, Medal of Honour of Sculpture; 1982 Lausanne (Switzerland): Restropective Ed. M. SANDOZ.

A friend of his human fellows, Sandoz has dedicated his life to helping them in many different ways.

He founded L'Oeuvre des Enfants d'Artistes in France, to help artists'

children; during World War I he created in Paris a studio to help the blind and mutilated servicemen; at the beginning of World War II he offered his Gallery to the Ville de Paris Authorities so that artists could have their exhibitions for free and also collect money by means of social events. In 1948 he became President of Fondation Taylor, the main mutual aid organisation for artists in France. Later, he was a founding member of La Cité des Arts, which offers convenient residence and working facilities in Paris.

This philanthropic attitude led in 1936, Sandoz and a friend of his,

Maurice Regnault, to offer the ship *Sirois* to offer Muslim pilgrims wishing to go to Makkah from North Africa more decent financial and material conditions than those prevailing at the time.

The sketches he drew and the notes he took during this journey to the Holy Land are gathered in his book "Vers l'Islam." As he was not allowed to go to Makkah with the pilgrims, he spent that time angling and painting a beautiful fish of the Red Sea.

The Gallery's opening hours are from 9 am to 12.30 pm and from 4 pm to 8.30 pm. This exhibition is on-going to April 12.

What is your I.Q.?

DO you know your IQ? Would you like a chance to join a group whose members' common denominator is extraordinary intelligence?

Mensa, a non-profit international society that identifies intelligent people from every nation and walk of life, is now seeking to extend its activity to the Middle East.

The organisation has no ideological, political or religious creed, and is constitutionally designed to have no collective opinion on anything. It is a society for individuals, men and women of all ages, types and backgrounds, who hold the same single qualification for membership — the top 2 per cent on a standard Intelligence Quotient Test (IQ Test). There is no other basis for membership.

The IQ Test is interesting and challenging, and provides a statistically reliable basis for the measurement of intelligence. It is administered and determined by Mensa's psychologists. The supervised test involves number and symbols, and does not require the knowledge of any particular language.

Mensa was founded in 1946 at Oxford by barrister L.L. Ware. He had a vision of "an alliance of superior minds" (as determined by intelligence testing) that could make significant contributions to problem-solving in many areas: world peace, education, psychology, ethics, etc. The goal was ambitious, and the organisation captured public interest and grew, first in Britain, then in Europe and North America.

In 1988 the Far East was the fastest-growing area, with a flourishing national Mensa in Malaysia and rapidly developing groups in Hong Kong and Singapore, the latter having been recognised by their government

in mid-1989. During 1989 the area of most rapid growth shifted to Eastern Europe: Yugoslavia and Poland both attained government registration and each established a formal Mensa structure, with approximately 750 and 900 members, respectively.

Today there are 90,000-plus members in more than 90 countries and efforts continue to establish Mensa in other parts of Eastern Europe, the Middle East, India and elsewhere.

Mensa is truly an international society: Members may participate on local, regional, national or international levels. Internationally, members may write to each other directly or

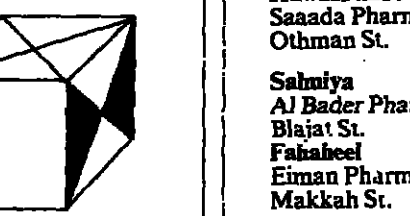
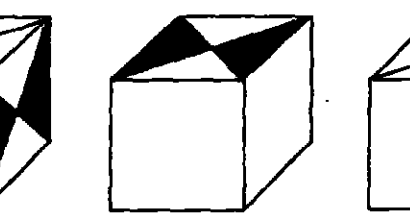
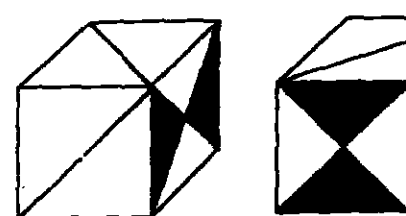
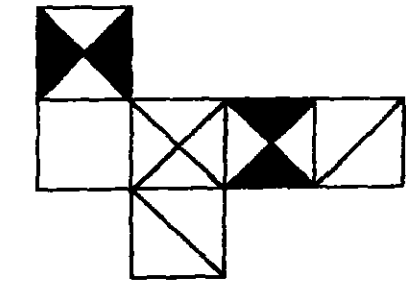
through the International Journal and the Isolated M Sight (Service of International Guidance and Hospitality to Travellers) offers the opportunity to visit other Mensans when travelling around the world, and to meet travellers from other lands at home. Memberships in SIGs (Special Interest Groups) provide another means of contact among members. One of the purposes of our international organisation is to foster these kinds of international exchange.

Other international activities include promoting interchange of ideas among the national Mensas; serving members who live in places where there is no established national Mensa; helping to start national groups;

and providing resources to further the growth of the developing Mensas. Mensa became an international presence 30 years ago when American Mensa was established with encouragement and early funding from what is now British Mensa.

Protection and registration of our logo and the name "Mensa" around the world is another international responsibility, as is the maintenance of admission standards so that members in different countries with different languages are, indeed, a "roundable of peers."

For more details contact: Edward J. Vincent, Mensa International, 15 the Ivories 6-8 Northampton Street London N1 2 Hy. Tel: 01-226 6891.



A

B

C

D

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

MORNING

- 9.30 The Opening and Holy Quran
- 9.40 Sabah Al Kher News
- 9.50 Cartoon serial
- 10.15 Magazine D'Actualite
- 10.30 Cultural film
- 11.00 Sabah Al Kher News and Varieties
- 11.05 Shuaa Min Al Madhi: Arabic serial (last part)
- 11.30 Wadan Zaman Al Samt: Weekly Arabic Serial (part 12)
- 12.25 News summary
- 12.30 Holy Quran and Closedown

EVENING

- 4.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
- 4.15 The World Today via Satellite

KTV 2

MORNING

- 4.45 Cartoons
- 6.00 Wa Qalat Al Arab: Historical serial (last part)
- 7.00 Varieties
- 7.15 You and Your Health: Local programme prepared by Dr. Salam Mohammed and Ghazi Al Khayyat and presented by Dr. Rashed Owais
- 7.45 Diwanat Shuaa Al Nabat: Local programme
- 8.30 Local News
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.45 Lil Adala Wajh Akhar: Arabic Serial (part 11)
- 10.45 Tareeq Fareya: Arabic feature film, starring Sameer Shams, Rulla Hamdi and Wafa Traiba
- 12.00 News Summary
- 12.05 The World Today via Satellite
- 12.30 Holy Quran and Closedown

KTV 2

MORNING

- 6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
- 6.10 The New Three Stooges: A cartoon series for children
- 6.30 The Beachcombers "Pedal Pushers": Pat sets up a pedicab business to capitalise on Gibson's tourist trade. No sooner has he built his vehicle, than he finds himself in competition with his friend Graham Blake!
- 7.00 World Safari: A look at wild life all over the world... Eagles and wild oxen in Alaska. Bears and seals in northern cold areas... etc.
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.30 Midnight Caller.

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Hajeri Pharmacy/
Helali St.
Al Rasheed Pharmacy
Ahmad Al Jaber St.
Hawalli and Nagra
Sazada Pharmacy
Othman St.

Salmiya
Al Bader Pharmacy
Blajaj St.
Fahad
Eman Pharmacy
Makkah St.

Juleb Al Shoukh
Faiaka Pharmacy
Main St.

Jahra
Al Nour Pharmacy
Matali St.

Global green debates by BBC

JONATHON Porritt and Sir Crispin Tickell, the United Kingdom's ambassador to the United Nations are among the speakers in a series of "Green Debates" to be broadcast on BBC World Service in March. A range of other programmes on environmental issues is also being transmitted during the month.

"The environment and what can be done to protect it is a worldwide problem and World Service provides the ideal forum to discuss the issues. From global warming to pesticide poisoning, from ozone destruction to desertification, we have never before had to face such huge challenges to survive," said Executive Producer, Tim Groust-Smith.

The threat to the rainforest. Economic growth — does it bankrupt the future? Nuclear power as an energy source. How best to co-ordinate international action on the environment. These are the topics being argued in the four debates chaired by Hugh Pryor-Jones.

"Many governments have already made proposals for 30-ordinated international action among them Britain which is leading the field in curbing production of the CFC which are damaging the ozone layer," added Tim Groust-Smith. "But the whole world must work to protect the environment and Third World countries should be able to learn from the mistakes of developed world. These debates will be heard worldwide and I hope our listeners will learn something of what is being done and what should be done."

Sunday, 25 March: The Nuclear Debate

"Nuclear power is the safest practical energy source for the future," put by Dr John Gittus, Director General of the British Nuclear Forum and

opposed by Andy Sterling of Greenpeace.

Sunday, 1 April: The Global Response

"The environmental crisis demands a radical review of international relations".

Speakers Sir Christopher Tickell, UK ambassador to the UN, and Marius Enthoven, Director General for Environmental Protection, Netherlands.

The following week, Sunday, April 8, leading environmentalist Tom Burke, Britain's representative at the European Environmental Bureau, will be answering calls in a special phone-in.

As well as The Green Debates BBC World Service is also broadcasting a new regular environmental programme called Global Concerns. It is presented by Noreen Alexander and draws together all the aspects of environmental issues: scientific, political and social.

Other 'green' programmes going out in March are:

A World of Waste — Two programmes in which Jonathan Head finds out how society deals with the rubbish generated by our consumer-orientated throw-away way of life.

Apocalypse Tomorrow — Are we nearing the end of the world? Christopher Nicholson investigates.

Other Wise — A four-part series looking at alternative medicine. Presented by Robert Eagle.

Children of the Ice — Scientist John Gribbin describes in six short talks how changes in the earth's climate might have influenced evolution and the development of human life.

Wearing Fur — Christopher Nicholson explores the arguments for and against the fur industry. Regular programmes are Discovery, an in-depth look at scientific research, and The Farming World.

WHAT'S ON

SOCIAL

Summer Affair '90

THE Weekend Club will host their traditional "Summer Affair" on the first day of Eid Al Fitr (April 26) at the Regency Palace Hotel. Watch or participate in the selection and crowning of the 1990 Summer Queen, join in a Jive Contest, watch a scintillating display of "Lambada" or simply let your feet loose to the music of Top Ranks and Perfect Strangers. Gala buffet, loads of prizes and most important have a good time. For reservations call 431 5425 (Julio), 5741380 or 4890566.

Guardian Angel Club

The Guardian Angel Club take great pleasure in announcing their Konkani drama entitled "Ostorocho Mog" (Woman's Love) directed by Rennie J. Colaco, on June 8, 1990, at the IAC, Goan Charlie Chaplin, Jacinto Vaz, Ophelia, H. Britton and Sebbi Coutinho are among the other well known Goan cast.

Ladies International League

THERE will be a coffee morning for newcomers to LIL and Kuwait on Sunday March 25 at the Sheraton Hotel in the Green Room from 10 am to 12 noon. All are welcome. For more info telephone Ann on 5316905.

Flag hoisting

A FLAG-HOISTING ceremony will be held at the Bangladesh embassy, Khalidiya, on Monday, March 26, at 9.00 am on the occasion of the Bangladesh Independence and National Day. The Bangladesh Ambassador, K.M. Shehabuddin will raise the flag. All Bangladeshis are cordially invited.

Narmada's Malayalam play

NARMADA Theatres will be staging a social Malayalam play, A Love Mantra From Ujjain, at Indian Arts Circle auditorium, Funaites on Friday, May 11, 1990 at 6.30 pm. Written by Varghese

Paul, lyrics by Rajendra Babu, music by Antony Joseph, the play is co-directed by Sherry John and directed by Jayan Pattathu. Various characters are being represented by popular stage artists among the Malayalee community in Kuwait.

German-speaking Cultural Association

THE forthcoming annual election will take place on Monday, March 26, 1990, 8 pm, at Kuwait International Hotel, Ahmadi Room. All ladies and gentlemen of the German-speaking community are requested to attend.

Czech film festival

SUNDAY: 25/3. "Curriculum Vitae" (1986), directed by Pavel Koutsky: 9 min. "The Musician and Death" (1984) by Lubomir Benes: 8 min. Feature film: "The Third Shark" (1985) by Peter Heilik, starring Patrik Sima, Jan Krizik. Screening starts at 7.30 pm. Films subtitled in English.

PRAYERS

Fajr	4.27 am
Zuhr	11.54
Asr	3.23 pm
Maghreb	6.02
Isha	7.19

CINEMA

Al Andalus
Arabic film
Al Sahmiah
The Wild Pair
Al Hamra
Arabic film
Drive-In
Arabic film
Al Firdous
Hisaab Khon Ka

Fahadheel Open
Hum Bhi Insaan Hain
Fahadheel
Big
Al Jahra
Agnee Path

Granada
Malakhat
Salaabikhat
2019 After the Fall of New York
Jleeb
Peruvannapurathe Vishnugal
Ahmadi Drive-In
Street Justice

LANGOLITA

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Three indices surge

Market turns mixed

THE Alshall Index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday an average of 40.35 points with an increase of 0.07 point — 0.17 per cent — over last week's average. The Alshall index for non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies reached 64.48 with a decrease of 0.18 point — 0.28 per cent — for the same period, according to Alshall weekly market review.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 45.39 million shares at a daily average of 9.08 million shares with a decrease of 13 per cent from the previous week's daily average of 10.38 million shares. Non-Kuwaiti traded shares reached 4.78 million shares at a daily average of 0.956 million shares with an increase of 369 per cent over last week's daily average of 0.204 million shares.

The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD12.17 million at a daily average of KD4.23 million, a decrease of 5 per cent from last week's daily average of KD4.45 million. The value of non-Kuwaiti traded shares was KD0.235 million at a daily average of KD0.047 million, an increase of 422 per cent over last week's daily average of KD0.009 million.

For the Kuwaiti shares market, the Banking Sector came first at 73 per cent of total trading against 63 per cent last week. The National Bank of Kuwait had the lead at 30 per cent, followed by Kuwait Finance House at 26 per cent and the Gulf Bank at 16 per cent. The Investment Sector came second at 13 per cent in which Coast Investment and Development Company had the lead at 53 per cent followed by Kuwait Investment Projects Company at 43 per cent and National Investments Company at 2 per cent. The Services Sector came third at 10 per cent in which Mobile Telephone Systems Company had the lead at 81 per cent followed by the Public Warehousing Company at 19 per cent. As for the non-Kuwaiti shares market, Bahrain International Bank had the lead at 70 per cent, followed by the Arabian General Investment Company (Shua'a) at 17 per cent and Umm-Al-Qaiwain Cement Industries Company at 13 per cent.

The market gave signs of mixed performance as three of the six indices increased while the rest decreased. In the Kuwaiti shares market the decrease in activity was more pronounced as two of its indices fell while the third increased. In the first four days of trading the shares market was more active than the last day (Wednesday) which led to the decrease in the indices of both markets. It is clear now and from previous experiences that these cycles of false activity, are taking shorter periods of time which we consider as a logical improvement.

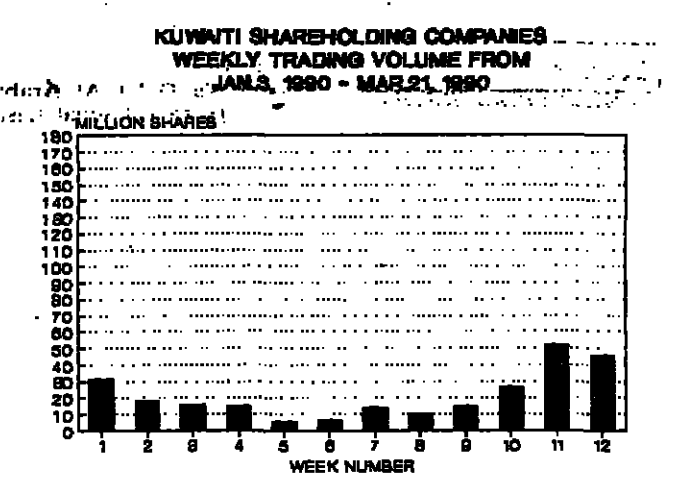
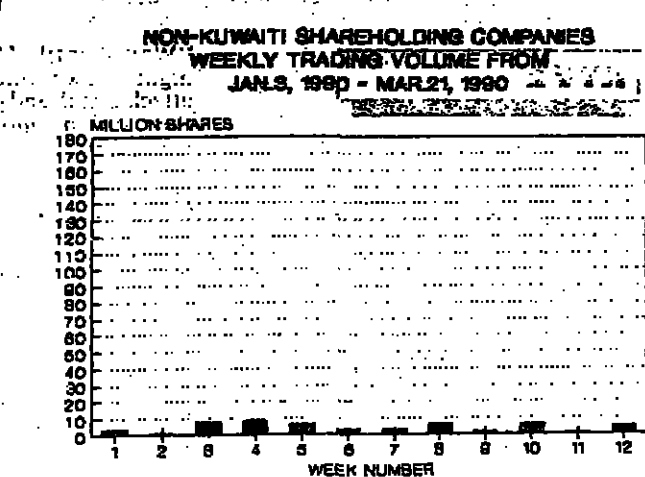
No new declaration of dividends was made in the past two weeks. Total companies that declared distributions in the Kuwaiti shares market stayed at 28 companies (63.6 per cent) out of a total of 44 listed companies.

Kuwait shareholding companies index			
	Wed. 21/03/90	Wed. 14/03/90	Change points
Banking Sector			
The National Bk	130.52	130.52	—
The Gulf Bk	31.48	31.92	-0.44
The Comm. Bk	24.59	24.59	—
Al Ahli Bk	31.79	32.29	-0.50
Bk of Kt & ME	31.44	31.44	—
Kuwait R. Est. Bk	30.27	30.00	0.27

Kt Finance House	83.52	81.57	1.95
Sector Index	50.41	50.44	-0.03
Inv. Sector			
Kuwait Inv. Co.	8.72	8.72	—
Kt. Int. Inv. Co.	8.59	8.59	—
IFA	23.16	23.16	—
Comm. Facilities	162.25	154.00	8.25
National Inv.	57.84	55.88	1.96
Kt. Inv. Proj.	88.76	89.89	-1.12
Coast Inv. & Dev.	87.06	85.88	1.18
Sector Index	32.31	31.65	0.65
Ins. Sector			
Kt. Ins. Co.	35.88	35.88	—
Gulf Ins. Co.	23.08	23.08	—
Al Ahleia Ins.	50.84	50.84	—
Warba Ins. Co.	50.69	50.69	—
Sector Index	35.74	35.74	—
Real Est. Sec.			
Kt. Real Est.	12.11	12.11	—
Utd. Realty	5.35	5.35	—
Nat. Real Est.	39.42	39.42	—
Pearl of Kt.	63.49	63.49	—
Sector Index	15.33	15.33	—
Ind. Sector			
Kt. Cmt. Co.	10.22	10.22	—
Ref. Ind.	84.55	82.36	2.20
Gulf Cables	115.39	113.13	2.26
Kt. Pharm.	60.44	60.44	—
Sector Index	28.16	28.74	-0.58
Services Sector			
Kt. Cmptr. Co.	131.76	131.76	—
Kt. Cinema Co.	7.61	7.61	—
Pub. Whousing Co.	60.61	61.62	-1.01
Kt. Comm. M. Co.	35.45	35.45	—
M. Tele. Syst.	360.00	357.14	2.85
Sector Index	59.68	58.60	1.08
Food Sector			
L. Trad. & Transp.	29.29	29.29	—
Utd Fisheries	11.05	11.05	—
Kt. Utd Poultry	110.01	110.01	—
Kt. Food Co.	75.86	75.86	—
Sector Index	39.88	39.88	—
Overall Index	40.35	40.28	0.07

Non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies index			
	Wed. 21/03/90	Wed. 14/03/90	Change points
First G. Bk.	236.84	236.84	—
Bah. Intl. Bk.	81.38	81.38	—
Bah. M.E. Bk.	94.92	94.92	—
A. Gen. Inv. (Shua'a)	43.94	44.70	-0.76
Umm Al Q. Cmt.	17.25	17.25	—
G. Med. Projs.	13.13	13.13	—
Total Index	64.48	64.66	-0.18

—Base period 31/12/1983.
—All the companies listed by the Stock Exchange under non-Kuwaiti companies are included.



Wang dies at 70

BOSTON, March 24, (UPI): An Wang, the computer entrepreneur who founded Wang Laboratories Inc., died of esophageal cancer today at Massachusetts General Hospital. He was 70.

Hospital spokesman Martin Bander said Wang, who was chairman and chief executive officer of the company he founded in 1951, died at 5.31 am. He had been readmitted to the hospital March 6 for follow-up treatment on a malignant tumour removed on July 14.

Symptoms of the tumour first appeared in March 1989 when Wang experienced trouble swallowing and surgery was performed by Dr. Hernan Gilio, a world expert on surgery of the esophagus. "That is a particularly difficult form of cancer," said Bander. Born in Shanghai, China, Wang came to the United States to study in the mid-1940s and earned a doctorate in physics at Harvard University.

CONDOLENCE

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MRS BADURENNESSA

beloved mother of

MR THOHA KHAN

on March 22, 1990

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staff express their sincere condolence.

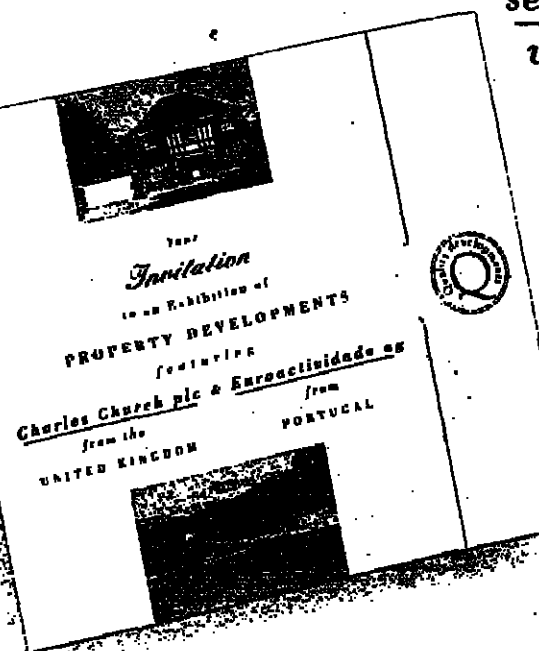
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Accounting conference concluded

THE second Arab International Accounting Conference concluded its meetings on Thursday which was held under the patronage of the Crown Prince of Jordan, Prince Hassan Bin Talal and was attended by a number of Arab and international distinguished professionals.

In the closing session of a number of resolutions and recommendations were taken to better establish the role of accounting in the economic and social development process in the Arab world and to acquire more involvement of the Arab accountants in the international accounting organisation.

The conference resolved the following:

- Establish centres in more Arab capitals for the Arab Society of Certified Accountants (Asca) qualification examination to give a chance to more than half a million accountants eager to be qualified.
- Choose a day to be declared the Arab accountants day. It was suggested it should be the day Prince Hassan first announced the recognition of Asca certificates.
- Co-ordinate with other sectors in particular universities, governments and economic sectors to develop co-operation programmes between them and the accounting profession.

- Continue to issue the "Arab Certified Accountant" magazine which enters its fourth successful year and ensure that it contains articles emphasising that accountants are not merely bookkeepers but leaders in this society.
- Emphasised the importance of holding this conference once every three years. It was resolved that the next conference be held during the second half of October 1993, in Cairo, Egypt.
- Underline the importance of documenting the conference's papers and minutes in a book.
- Concentrate on the educational role of Asca to better highlight the accountants role in the development process.

The conference recommended the following:

- The importance of changing the International Federation of Accountants (Ifac) constitution to have better representation of all countries of the world by giving a larger role to developing countries in general and the Arab countries in particular.

Form an accounting standards committee in co-operation with Asca, Arab governments and Arab and international organisations to develop the Arab accounting standards.

Opec, non-Opec states meet

Oil market to be reviewed

MUSCAT, March 24, (Reuters): Nations that control 80 per cent of the world's crude oil supplies gathered in Oman today to discuss the short-term market outlook and problems facing the industry through the 1990s.

Top oil officials from the 13 Opec states and their counterparts from 12 non-Opec countries will review an expected fall in the oil price in the second quarter of 1990, due to overproduction.

Over the next 10 years output by non-Opec states is expected to decline gradually, while production by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries will rise.

The two-day talks are expected to consider ways of raising output to match a projected one to two per cent annual growth in oil demand in the next decade.

Bottlenecks in the refining industry and the impact of environmental concerns will also be discussed.

Non-Opec delegates are Oman, Mexico, the Soviet Union, Norway, North Yemen, Colombo,

Angola, Malaysia, China, Egypt, the US state of Alaska and the Canadian province of Alberta.

Oman presented a study on the oil market outlook in the second quarter of this year.

An Omani official said on Thursday after a non-Opec meeting in Muscat that world oil supply in the second quarter would be 300,000-400,000 barrels per day (bpd) higher than demand.

Demand was expected to fall as winter heating requirements in the northern hemisphere declined.

Supplies to the market are expected to remain at around first quarter levels, which have already pushed oil prices below Opec's \$18 a barrel reference price.

Opec states are pumping almost two million bpd above their agreed 22.086 million bpd total ceiling, according to a Reuters survey.

Opec Secretary General Subroto told reporters before today's meeting that a short-term fall in demand for oil would come as no surprise.

Bush presses for action

Central American aid package

WASHINGTON, March 24, (Reuters): President George Bush pushed the Congress on Friday for swift approval of an \$800 million aid package for Panama and Nicaragua that has been stalled over problems with transferring the money from the defence budget.

"It is absolutely essential that Congress move to pass this legislation that will bring urgent, needed help to Panama," he said at the start of a hastily arranged meeting with Panamanian Vice-President Guillermo Ford.

He later repeated the message at a White House news conference.

Ford, who has been lobbying Congress to pass the aid bill, had been scheduled to meet US Vice-President Dan Quayle, but not Bush. The talk with Bush was added at the last moment to provide a forum for the appeal to the Congress.

Bush has asked for \$500 million for Panama and \$300 million for Nicaragua by April 5 and said on Thursday the measure was proving "a difficult, difficult sell" on Capitol Hill.

He intends to use money originally allocated to the defence budget and has asked Congress to make cuts in defence spending for the aid, saying that if Congress was

unable to agree on what to cut by March 27 it should give him the authority to make the cuts himself.

Senator Robert Byrd, powerful chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, was said by an aide to have questions both about the level of the proposed aid and why the administration wanted to pay for it.

And although another key senator, Vermont Democrat Patrick Leahy, has said the bill is too costly and has called for some of the money to be switched to aid for Eastern Europe, other senior members of congress have voiced support for the measure.

Bush said on Thursday the United States had a strong aid programme for Eastern Europe and "we can do no less for our own neighbours."

The House Foreign Affairs Committee has begun considering the Panama-Nicaragua aid and appears set to accept the figures. It continues work on the bill next week.

However, the position of the appropriations committees of the House and Senate will be crucial. Leahy is chairman of the Senate Foreign Aid Subcommittee. His House counterpart, David Obey, declined to state his view of the aid level.

Exxon credit card protest wanes

NEW YORK, March 24, (UPI): Exxon Corp. customers have apparently forgiven the oil giant for the worst spill in US history and virtually ended a boycott in which more than 40,000 credit cards were returned since the Alaska shoreline was fouled one year ago.

Exxon spokesman Les Rogers yesterday said Exxon now receives "very few, one occasionally" of the credit cards, torn up in protest of the March 24 oil spill that dumped 11 million gallons (41 million ltrs) of crude into the pristine Prince William Sound.

He said the returns dropped off to such a small level late last summer that the company stopped counting.

"About 40,000 credit cards have been returned by

Exxon cardholders in protest over the Exxon Valdez (tanker) incident," the spokesman said.

He said Exxon replied to each customer, acknowledging the return and expressing regret for the incident. Each was asked to return as a customer but "no appreciable amount" have elected to take out another card," Rogers said.

Exxon figures have previously showed that cards were being returned at a rate of 3,000 a month as late as August.

Exxon chairman Lawrence Rawl, in an interview in this week's Time magazine, said, "on average, (the returned) cards weren't being used much, while many other customers had ordered more than 160,000 cards in that same time period."

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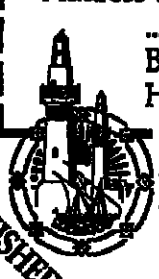
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BUSINESS

Message to traders

'Every bubble must burst'

TOKYO, March 24, (AP) — As a hectic week of pessimism and repeated plunges shaved more than 6.9 per cent off the main index on the Tokyo Stock Exchange, the message to traders was clear: every bubble must burst.

Over the past few years the stock market in this country has been a repetition of share prices going up because of buying, and buying because of share prices going up, said an editorial in the Nihon Keizai Shimbun, an influential economic journal.

As excessive price-earnings ratios indicate, share prices have been detached from actual industrial conditions, and the bubble has grown larger and larger. But every bubble must burst, the editorial said Friday. "That time has come."

The Nikkei stock average, which closed the week Friday at 30,372.16 points, had fallen a combined 2,773.1 points during the three previous trading days.

After closing for a national holiday Wednesday, the market on Thursday broke the psychological 30,000-point barrier, with the 225-issue Nikkei index closing at 29,843.34, its lowest finish since the 29,741.28 points recorded on Dec. 24, 1988.

Traders noted that the Nikkei, which rose 8,756.87 points in 1989, had already lost 9,072.93 points, or 23 per cent, this year.

"The bottom is almost here," said Kenji Maeshiro, a stock analyst with Yamachi Securities Co.

The plunge prompted Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto to lament that his ministry was monitoring the markets "with anguish." Both he and Bank of Japan governor Yasushi Mieno agreed that the stock and currency markets were influencing each other, sending both down. Seeking to avert inflation and stabilize the financial markets, Mieno on Tuesday announced a much-awaited 1 percentage-point increase in Japan's official discount rate. The rate, charged for central bank loans to commercial banks, now stands at 5.25 per cent.

Mieno said, however, that results from the increase should not be expected to appear immediately, and the increase failed to stop the dollar's

Through a \$28.82-point rebound Friday, the Nikkei index hinted of confidence returning to the market. The Ministry of International Trade and Industry began action to assess the effects of the losses so far.

Miti decided to launch a nationwide survey to gauge the impact on companies' investment in equipment and facilities, profits, and prices of imported raw materials, said a ministry official.

The ministry action came as Mazda, a leading automaker, reportedly decided to scale back sales targets for a new luxury car because of fears the bearish market and weak yen — the dollar gained 2.87 yen over the last six trading days — might spill over and dampen consumers' extravagance in general.

"As far as I know, this is the first such survey by Miti," said the official, requesting anonymity. "But this does not mean we think the situation very serious. We worry, rather, that our moves might accelerate the public anxiety and worsen their economic prospects for the future, so we are trying not to make a fuss about it."

Exchange Rates

Indian rupee	17.240
Sri Lankan rupee	7.440
Pakistani rupee	13.860
Bangladesh taka	8.630
US dollar	24.450
Pound sterling	47.250
UAE dirham	980.14
Deutsche mark	172.25
Japanese yen	001920

Economic growth lagging behind population explosion

World's poorest countries getting poorer

GENEVA, March 24, (AP) — A new UN report issued yesterday paints a bleak picture of the world's 42 poorest countries, becoming poorer, with economic growth lagging behind the population explosion.

It put the blame on domestic policy failures and a lack of international assistance, and urged "enormous endeavours" to reverse the decline.

Economic growth outpaced population increases in only five countries — Bhutan, Botswana, Cape Verde, Maldives and Yemen.

Bhutan, Cape Verde, and Yemen, together with Burkina Faso and Guinea-Bissau, also achieved a better growth rate in agricultural production, more than 4 per cent annually.

A special UN conference to deal with the situation in the least developed countries and consider possible action is to convene in Paris next September.

The secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, UNCTAD, which compiled the 250-page report, called for a relief programme that would double development assistance and eliminate bilateral debt.

Agricultural production, affected in some countries by drought or disastrous floods, grew by 2.0 per cent annually, half of the targeted growth. At the same time, the population increased by 2.4 per cent every year to a present estimated total of 440 million.

If present demographic trends continue, the population of the Third World is expected to increase to 4.8 billion by the year 2015 — a 65 per cent increase — with the population of the poorest countries almost doubling to 882 million.

The report called for "firm commitments

for the political and financial support necessary to execute family planning programmes.

Average annual gross domestic product growth in the least developed countries, or LDCs, was a mere 2.3 per cent during 1980-88, compared with a target of 7.2 per cent set by a special UN conference in 1981, according to the 250-page report.

By UN-established criteria, the term LDC applies to countries with a per capita domestic product of less than \$427, a literacy rate of less than 20 per cent, and a manufacturing share of less than 10 per cent of the total gross domestic product.

The total outstanding debt in the 42 least developed countries doubled between 1982 and 1988 to \$69 billion, while their share of world exports declined to 0.3 per cent in 1988, down from 1.4 per cent in 1960.

World prices for primary commodities

which still make up about two thirds of their total exports are declining.

Domestic economic adjustment programmes failed to get sufficient external financial support and achieved "at most, limited success," said the report. Lack of financial resources also forced cutbacks on spending for social services, it added.

But the report said their domestic policies had also been an important factor in restricting export development, citing exchange rate policies, public sector monopolies, inflexible pricing policies, subsidies to unproductive production ventures, and a "relative neglect of the role of the private sector."

The report said rising demand for food, water, land, firewood, and other natural resources had further aggravated an already precarious ecological balance in many of the countries.

It said a new class of displaced persons have emerged in these countries in the 1980's — "environmental refugees."

"Growing human pressure on the natural environment has either rendered ecosystems more vulnerable or triggered off a self-reinforcing process of natural degradation, or both," it said. "As a result, more people are affected by natural catastrophes, such as landslides, cyclones, earthquakes and flood than before."

The UNCTAD secretariat said that the countries could reach an annual growth rate of some 5 per cent in the latter part of the 1990's if they are at the same time provided with an amount of official development assistance increasing to a level of \$36 billion (in 1988 prices) by the year 2000.

This would imply, the secretariat said, that donors should double their official assistance in the next five years and provide 0.2

per cent of their gross national product by the end of the 1990's. Currently, donors provide an average 0.09 per cent of their GNP.

Official bilateral debt should be written off by all creditor countries in accordance with an UNCTAD resolution already adopted in 1978.

The 42 "LDCs" surveyed were Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kiribati, Laos, Lesotho, Malawi, Maldives, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Burma, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Tuvalu, Uganda, Tanzania, Vanuatu and Yemen.

Oman's GNP growth accelerates

Private sector to get a boost

DUBAI, March 24, (Reuters) — Oman aims to increase the role of its private sector but will maintain state spending to stimulate growth in the short term, the country's finance chief said.

"Government spending is still the major dynamic force for economic activity," said Deputy Prime Minister for Financial and Economic Affairs Qais Bin Abdulmonim Al Zawawi.

"At present the government is studying... what assets could be transferred to the private sector," he said in the latest bi-monthly Central Bank Report.

Zawawi said that to qualify for greater public ownership, companies should be well managed, make a profit, and be registered on the Oman Stock Exchange.

Government financial resources depend mainly on oil

revenues, which make up 80 per cent of the 1990 total revenues," Zawawi said.

"Therefore it was essential to base oil revenue estimates on a realistic assumption of oil prices."

He said the government's 1990 budget estimated the average annual price of a barrel of oil at \$15, compared to an actual \$15.80 last year.

Zawawi said the budget assumed the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) would abide by its oil output quotas and that non-Opec producers, among which Oman plays a leading role, would continue to back Opec efforts to stabilise prices.

Independent economists believe 1990 average oil prices could be higher than \$15 per

barrel, which could cut Oman's predicted budget deficit for the year of 313.4 million rials (\$81.4 million), against 407.6 million rials (\$1.01 billion) in 1989.

A big drop in revenues after an oil price crash in 1986 and a subsequent recession taught the government to err on the side of caution.

The main budget details were announced at the beginning of the year. Budget revenue for 1990 was raised 20.5 per cent to 1.4 billion rials (\$3.6 billion), with spending raised 9.2 per cent to 1.71 billion rials (\$4.44 billion).

Last month Oman reported an eight per cent rise in gross national product in the first nine months of 1989 over the same period of 1988, to 2.46 billion rials (\$6.38 billion).

Pledge to co-operate on economic policy

LOS ANGELES, March 24, (UPI) — US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady and Japanese Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto pledged Friday to co-operate on economic policy, following a week of turbulence on the Japanese financial markets.

Brady, at a news conference following a day of meetings with Hashimoto, said the United States made no concessions in any economic areas.

Japanese politicians have been calling for help from the United States in stabilising the soaring dollar to calm their financial markets, which have been hurt by a sharp decline in the Japanese yen.

Brady and Hashimoto issued a joint statement saying that they had discussed developments in global financial markets and agreed to keep these developments under review. "In addition, they reaffirmed their commitment to economic policy co-ordination, including co-operation in the exchange markets," the statement said.

Brady, in an effort to provide confidence to investors, said the world financial markets appear to be unshaken by the problems in Japan, where the Nikkei index posted its lowest close in 15 months Thursday.

"Even though there has been a 20 per cent decline in the Japanese market, the rest of the world's markets have operated in a stable manner," Brady said.

The Japanese markets stabilised to finish moderately higher Friday, following a week of heavy losses.

Hashimoto did not appear at the 15-minute news conference. However, the joint statement said the two officials discussed a range of bilateral and multilateral issues, including the structural impediments initiative, the International Monetary Fund and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Brady also said there were discussions about recent political and economic developments in Eastern Europe.

The Treasury Secretary said the discussions with Hashimoto were also a prelude to economic meetings next month of the Group of Seven nations.

However, the US official said a proposal by the Bank of Japan to issue dollar-denominated government bonds was not discussed.

A Japanese news agency said earlier that Hashimoto would broach with Brady the plan to issue the government bonds to back up the ongoing effort to stop the yen's decline.



Protests against economic policies

Argentine union leader Saul Ubaldin protests against President Carlos Menem's economic policies during a march in central Buenos Aires. Tens of thousands of government employees participated in the second mass protest against Menem in less than a week. (Reuters wirephoto)

Wall Street watch

Bull market could be driven out

NEW YORK, March 24, (AP) — Wall Street's latest bull market may soon be driven away, at least for a while.

After a vigorous runup recently, the market rally stalled this past Tuesday as traders fretted about corporate earnings at home and interest rates in Japan. Stocks recovered on Friday, boosted by strong bond prices and a mild rebound on the troubled Tokyo stock market.

Strategists expect the first-quarter earnings of many US companies, due early next month, to show worse-than-expected results that would depress the value of American stocks.

The earnings reports "will look pretty horrendous," said Larry Wachtel, an analyst for Prudential-Bache securities Inc.

In addition, as the first quarter approaches its end this coming week, many institutional investors could sell to take profits to put on their books.

Rumblings from the Far East could heighten the market's skittishness.

For the past month or so, steep declines in the Tokyo stock market have failed to shake up Wall Street, at least not too much. The familiar domino effect from one market to the other seems to have been put on hold.

But the effect could come roaring back, some experts believe. If the Tokyo market falls so severely that Japanese investors are forced to sell their US stocks, "raise cash for obligations at home."

"We may run into some rough sledding," said Ben Rafferty, an analyst at Smith Barney, Harris Upham and Co. "That's where the selling pressure could come in."

Much will depend on the dollar. Its strength has helped fuel the market's recent rally.

The dollar's gains are seen as a testimony to the stability and favourable long-term prospects of the US economy, at a time when the world political and economic landscape is changing fast.

"This economy is showing surprising pockets of strength," said Frank Cappiello, a principal of McCullough, Andrews and Cappiello Inc. in Baltimore. "People see this as a market of preference."

The New York Stock Exchange composite index slipped 2.47 to 185.45, the Nasdaq composite index of over-the-counter trading lost 4.91 to 437.25, and the American Stock Exchange's market value index dropped 2.57 to 361.61.

Bombay Stock Exchange prices (Rs)

	Pr. Cl.	Open	Close
ACC	389	388	398
Alcon Chem	—	—	—
Alu Nis	—	—	—
Ani Fab	—	—	—
Asbok Ley	76	76	78
Asia Paint	235	233.75	233.75
Atlas Cop	37	36.50	37.50
Auto Corp	55	55	57.50
Nat Index	404.34	411.50	411.50
Bajaj Auto	395	397.50	400
Bar Rayon	745	730	747.50
Blow Plast	—	—	—
Bom Dye	190	186.50	190
BK Bond	105	115	113
Borr Wel	85	82.50	83.75
Canshare	—	—	—
Cen Enka	3200	3200	3250

Bombay shares

Cen Spg	2990	2970	3050	GNFC	44.25	43.50	44.25
Colgate	227.50	227.50	230	Gresim	122	126.50	122.50
Cromi Gr	—	925	940	GE Spps	49.50	49.50	49.50
DCM	16	15.50	16.50	GSF	186.25	185	185
Deep Fert	32	31.75	32.50	GSF	84	83	84
Dunlop	56	55	57.50	Guj Alti	—	15.50	16
El Hotels	63	61	63	Guj Heavy	16	18	20
ESSE Index	739.22	757.75	760	Hind Ciba	1270	1250	1285
Eskayef	142.50	140	143.75	Hind Lever	118	117.50	119.50
Esar Sps	35	35.25	35	Hind Cocoa	166.25	116.25	168.75
Far Rayon	130	128	128	Hindaleo	260	261.25	263.75
Forbes	48	47.50	50	Hochst	1620	1575	1610
God Poly	35.50	35	36	Compiled by Kuwait-India International Exchange Co.			
Glindia	101	101	102				

US administration projects budget deficit of \$63.1b in fiscal 1991

Most economists expect significant slowdown this year

ON JANUARY 31, 1990, President Bush presented his administration's plan for the fiscal 1991 US federal budget, ushering in a new phase of discussions on the subject. The federal deficit has become a matter of public concern during the 1980s when the tax-and-spend policies adopted by President Reagan ballooned the deficit from \$73.8 billion in 1980 to \$221.26 billion in 1988. The total government budget deficit (including state and local government) has risen from an average of 0.9 per cent of GNP in the 1970s to an average of 2.7 per cent since 1986.

In December 1985, a law was passed, known as the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings bill after the names of its sponsors (Gramm-Rudman or GRH) which set annual targets for the budget deficit with the eventual aim of achieving a balanced budget by 1991. The zero balance year was later postponed to 1993, according to a study conducted by Industrial Bank of Kuwait's Economics Department.

To put the current debate about the US budget into perspective, it is necessary to understand its effect on government policy and on an overall economic activity. For a country's economic growth to be stable, i.e. not dependent on volatile foreign capital inflow, it is necessary that national investment be sufficient to finance national investment. (Investment in this context means the net addition to the country's real capital stock

of buildings, plant and equipment etc.).

A budget surplus means that the government is spending a smaller amount than what it receives in taxes and other revenues, i.e. it is saving. Conversely, a government which runs a deficit is consuming. As long as public dissaving is matched by an equal increase in private saving, there is no problem. But if, as has happened in the US during the past decade, private saving stagnates or declines then the result is a deficit on the current account of the balance of payments. With national saving (both public and private) less than investment an inflow of foreign capital is necessary to finance the shortfall. That is why economists often refer to the government budget deficit and the current account deficit as being "twins" implying that eliminating the first automatically eliminates the second. However, it is not so simple since the decline in private savings from 8.1 per cent of GNP in the 1970s to 4.8 per cent since 1986 also bears part of the blame.

However, it remains true that by contributing to the current account deficit the budget deficit helps to make the stability of the US economy dependent on the continuation of a massive inflow of foreign capital. A crisis of confidence in the dollar would thus plunge the US into a recession since there will be little leeway for manoeuvre via interest rate policy. The necessity of financing the budget deficit means that

US interest rates cannot be allowed to drift too low or else forthcoming funds will dry up. The budget deficit also plays a role in "crowding out" effect. This means that the high interest rates offered in order to finance the deficit attract savings that would otherwise have been directed to the private sector.

A further problem posed by the budget deficit is that it poses an intergenerational transfer. Through reliance on foreign funding the US is building up a huge national debt which will require a net outflow of future resources with which to repay it. In essence the burden of this generation's dissaving will be borne by future generations.

The Gramm-Rudman law laid down specific monetary targets for each year's deficit with the eventual aim of achieving a balanced budget by 1993. The targets refer to the budget plan put forward by the President's Office of Management and the Budget (OMB) and approved by the Congress. They do not refer to the actual deficit which often exceeds the target by a significant amount. In fiscal 1989, the actual deficit was \$152 billion versus an approved target of \$136 billion fiscal 1990, which ends September 30 1990, the actual deficit is expected to be \$128 billion versus an approved target of \$110 billion.

The president announces the White House projections for the economy and the

budget plan for the coming fiscal year (which runs from October 1st to September 30th) in late January. Meanwhile, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) also works on a budget plan. Next follows a long period of discussions and negotiations with the aim of reaching a final agreement in keeping with the Gramm-Rudman target. A leeway of \$10 billion in excess of the target is allowed. If by the beginning of the fiscal year on October 1 no agreement has been reached, according to Gramm-Rudman in all non-exempt expenditure categories. The cuts are to be split 50-50 between defence and domestic programmes. This event has occurred twice since the passing of the law, the most recent being in the fiscal 1990 budget.

Although a bipartisan agreement was finally reached in November 1990, after the fiscal year had begun, the across-the-board cuts remained in place until February to enable the deficit target to be met.

Although GRH law seems to represent a determined policy to reduce the deficit, its practical application has been less positive. What makes the US budget game peculiar is that it is played entirely with forecasts. The budget targets presented by the OMB have been consistently designed using once-only revenue measures and accounting gimmicks and not part of a credible effort to genuinely tackle the

deficit. GRH targets were overshoot by \$50 billion in fiscal 1986 and were met in fiscal 1987 only because of the revenue windfall associated with the tax reform. They would have been overshoot by \$47 billion in fiscal 1988 if the revised law of 1987 had not conveniently raised the target from \$108 billion to \$144 billion. Even the new target were then overshoot by \$11 billion in fiscal 1988. \$16 billion in 1989 and an expected \$18 billion in 1990. The new budget plan for fiscal 1991 does not appear to be an exception.

As outlined by the OMB, the administration projects a budget deficit of \$63.1 billion in fiscal 1991, in line with the GRH \$64 billion target. Expenditure is projected to increase by \$1 billion to \$1.23 trillion and revenue by \$8 per cent to \$1.17 trillion. To arrive at this revenue increase the administration is projecting GRH growth of 2.6 per cent in fiscal 1990 and 3.3 per cent in fiscal 1991. These are optimistic assumptions since the latest data show fiscal 1989 growth was 2.4 per cent and most economists expect a significant slowdown this year. Constrained by his campaign pledge of "no new taxes" the only new revenue increasing measures are some user charges and other unspecified "IRS initiatives."

The discussions surrounding the 1991 budget are expected to be long and hard. Apart from the questionability surrounding one economic assumption there is the

overriding issue of the so-called "peace dividend." With the onset of global détente and the reduction of the Soviet threat there is much pressure on the administration to slash defence expenditures and to allocate this "peace dividend" to a wide variety of domestic programmes including education and drug control.

However, the 1991 budget does not indicate the presence of a peace dividend. Although defence allocations have decreased by 2.6 per cent in real terms (i.e. taking inflation into account) at \$306.9 billion they represent a slight increase over the \$301.6 billion authorised for the current fiscal year. Previously announced cuts of up to \$180 billion over three years turned out to be merely correcting unrealistic expenditure assumption inherited from the previous administration by eliminating the mismatch between planned spending and congressionally approved funding.

In spite of the current arms control negotiations it remains to be seen how far Congress can push for this peace dividend. A large proportion of upcoming expenditures are already "locked in" by the government's budget authority which allows it to sign contracts and pay bills as they come due. In addition, cutting defence programmes will inevitably entail the closing down of plants and loss of jobs which will challenge the vested interests of Congressmen to protect their states. In one

noticeable incident, Rockwell Corporation subcontracted work on the B-1 bomber programme to 48 states, rendering it virtually invulnerable.

Apart from the deficit itself, there are other "off-budget" items that are of related importance. Firstly is the Social Security fund which currently has amassed a large surplus. Although it is not counted as part of the government budget the surplus is currently invested in treasury securities i.e. the treasury in effect "borrows it" and counts it as one of its sources of funds, thereby reducing the overall deficit figure. Secondly, Congressmen have argued that the Social Security funds should be explicitly removed from the budget accounts to highlight the real problem.

In addition, the fund is expected to start running a deficit sometime in the future as an ageing population means that payroll taxes paid are exceeded by outgoing pension payments.

Another criticism is that directed to the treatment of government sponsored enterprises (GSEs) as off-budget. Originally, these were private institutions designed to promote public policy goals. In actual fact they have the government's credit risk backing them and so offer only a few basis points over treasury bonds of equivalent maturity. These represent a subtle danger since the unaccounted risk encourages them to over-borrow.

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FARWANIYA, behind the Holiday Inn. One room with water, electricity and tele facilities for a bachelor to share with a family. Tele. 4764602, after 4:30 pm. (AT2-52019-2)

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SPORTS

Players to get wages for loss of earnings

LONDON, March 24. (Reuters). Rugby union players can now be compensated for loss of earnings in home internationals but the sport's governing body has deferred a decision on payments for activities associated with the game.

In a statement yesterday after this week's annual meeting, the IRFB said players could receive a maximum £20 (\$32) a day while preparing for and playing in a home international. At present players can be compensated on tour only.

These payments are at the discretion of each union and are not to exceed the actual financial disadvantage," the statement said.

The board postponed any decision on payments for activities such as advertising, broadcasting and writing books and articles until its interim meeting in October. At present players are barred from making any money from their association with the game.

The chairman of the board's amateurism committee, Sir Ewart Bell of Ireland, said New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, France and Wales had favoured amending the present laws.

Ireland had opposed any change while England and Scotland were prepared to consider amendments.

"There are some in rugby football who don't wish to see any development at all," Sir Ewart said.

"There are some who want to go quite a way down the road and this includes a number to top players."

Sir Ewart said a working party comprising representatives from Ireland, England, Wales and New Zealand would examine ways in which further changes in the regulations could be made acceptable to all member unions.

"I would hope that the process can be brought to an end by October," he said.

Sir Ewart was asked for the IRFB's opinion on New Zealand players who formed companies with the sole purpose of promoting themselves commercially.

"I think that it's perfectly legitimate to do it," Sir Ewart replied. "It has to be their full-time bonafide occupation."

South Africa's Fritz Eloff, whose term as chairman ends after this week's meeting, said his country were unlikely to bid for the 1995 World Cup.

"Very important changes are taking place in South Africa," he said. "But perhaps 1995 will be just too early. It's very difficult to say."

South Africa did not take part in the 1987 World Cup and have not been invited to participate in next year's cup either.

The IRFB also confirmed that Kenya and Namibia had been accepted as associate members, bringing the total membership to 44 unions.

It will now consider restructuring the board so that all associate members become full members while the present eight members will be joined by five other unions to form an executive council.

KDD, OTC, KPBC and EEI win Nissan take KAI to task

NISSAN Al Babbain. KDD, Overland, KPBC and EEI posted contrasting victories at the start of the "KPBL" — Kuwait Pinoy Basketball League 1st Conference journey. The Keifan High School Gym was once again filled to its capacity and the crowd that came to witness the games were delighted by the brand of basketball exhibited.

Nissan Al Babbain 82 — KAI 67

Nissan Al-Babbain subdued Kay & Associates to lead 1-0 in its Best Of 3 Games-Series with KAI for the 9th and 10th places. It was a close 1st half as the combination of Kai, Marin, Alvendia, Evangelista, and Galicha scored 39 points to keep their team within striking distance of its virtual conqueror. Halftime score stood at 44-39 in favour of Nissan. In the second half, KAI's depleted bench, playing minus its veteran Romeo Velayo, paid the penalty as fatigue caught up with them and they managed to score only 28 points compared to Nissan's 38. Top scorers for Nissan were Abajero 19, Peres 19, Garcia 15, Detera 13 and Castillo 8. KAI was paced by "Atoy" Kai 32, Marin 13, Evangelista 10 and Alvendia 7. The Mabuhay Best Player of the Game was awarded to Edison Abajero.

KDD 84 — KRP 80

KDD-Kuwait Danish Dairy playing with only 6 men escaped with victory over KRP-Kuwait Regency Palace in another cardiac finish, characteristic of the "KPBL" games. Halftime score stood at 39-39, as both sides played serious basketball to the delight of the crowd. In the second-half, KDD got a bonus of sorts as KRP's Speedy Bolito had to be taken off the court as he accidentally stepped on a foot off a KDD dribbler. Minus Bolito, KRP was left vulnerable with its offence suffering the most and KDD went on to win despite having only 4 players at the final buzzer. KDD was again paced by Pizarro 24, Rue 18, Ramirez 17, Liganay 11, Francisco 9, and Dominguez 5. KRP was led by Matudio 23, Osorio 18, De Jesus 17, Nardo 7 and Bolito 7. The Mabuhay Best Player of the Game was Eric Pizarro.



The 'graduates of the day' Ramirez (left) and Rue (centre) of KDD and Matudio of KRP.

Overland 102 — Al Ghanim 94

In a high scoring ball game, Overland Transport Co. defeated Al Ghanim Freight & Travel. It was closer than the scores indicate as Al Ghanim led at halftime 47-39 courtesy of Velasco, Dayao, Galicia, Ungeco, and Ragudon. In the second-half Al Ghanim, missing the services of its ace playmaker Nelson Garcia was outgunned by the OTC 56-47. Final tally was OTC 102- Al Ghanim 94.

Overland was again led by "Billy-Ray" Hulk Hogan Navarro 36, Martinez 22, Pineda 17, Moya 8, Veluz 7 and Atendido 6. Al Ghanim was



paced by Velasco 32, Ungeco 17, Galicia 16, Dayao 15 and Macatangay 6. The Mabuhay Best Player of the game was Billy Ray/Hulk Hogan Navarro, his third time in the entire 1st conference tournament.

KPBC 103-Trico 93

In another high scoring ball game, KPBC maintained its composure to outlast Trico International 103-93 for its first win in the Single Round Robin Championship. Halftime score stood at 52-43 in favour of KPBC, as they dominated both sides of the boards once again reminiscent of their One-Day Championship encounter. In the second-half, Trico's com-



bination of Reyes, Menes, Babierra, Vargas and Calaycay gave the KPBC dribblers a run for their money closing in several times, the last with 3:06 minutes remaining and score at 91-88. However, 5 uncompleted fastbreak inbound plays sealed their fate as KPBC converted on each offensive, 10 unanswered points to be exact.

Leading scorers for KPBC were The "Macho Man From Adan" — Edwin Castro 24, Ric "Tigas" Perez 23, De La Cruz 18, Emie "Carnation Baby" Domingo 11, the "Heart-break Kid" Barcelona 10 and Arganza 9. Trico International in its gallant stand was led by Reyes 39, Menes 21, Babierra 16, Atienza 8 (first half only) and Vargas 6. The Mabuhay Best Player of the Game was awarded to Ric "Pigas" Perez, 59" guard-forward from Kamuning, Quezon City.

EEI 130 — KHC-Bayan 103

EEI scored its 1st win in the Championship Round by blasting KHC Bayan 130-103. EEI with all 10 players scoring 4 points or more out-gunned its opponent reminiscent of their One-Day Championship encounter. The KHC-Bayan however put up a gallant stand leading several times during the 1st-half of action to the delight of the pro-KHC crowd before being subdued by the fast-breaking EEI 5. Half-time score was 58-47 in EEI's favour. In the second half EEI showed its



The 'KRP' dancers providing half-time numbers

Evergreen outlast Lanka Lions

EVERGREEN cricketers battled all the way to defeat Lanka Lions in a Division A encounter of Gulf Cricket League at EPI Grounds on Friday morning.

Put in to bat, Lanka Lions amassed 191 for seven in their allotted 30 overs. Donald, who was in excellent form, cracked an unbeaten 68 with the help of two towering sixes and three boundaries. Madugalle, Perusinge and Namal contributed 25, 24 and 25 respectively.

For Evergreen, Anjum Raza and Maqsood got two wickets each as one went to Shehzad and the remaining two batsmen were run-out. Poor fielding and the absence of a regular wicketkeeper was quite a helping factor for Lanka Lions but still credit cannot be taken away from Lanka Lions batsmen for their excellent performance.

Evergreen cricketers required to score at 6.40 per over, were jolted by some excellent fielding by Lanka Lions. Anjum Raza (9) was caught off Dissa

and in the next over Sujith's flashing throw caught Babar inches out of crease. Babar batted well before being adjudged lbw to Sujith for a disciplined 24, including a six and two boundaries.

Sikander and Maqsood also became the victims of magnificent fielding as both were needlessly run out in the same over. With the total 67, Evergreen lost their sixth wicket as Jamil was caught for 15 off Dissa. Then Asad Baig playing captain's innings and well-supported by teenager Shehzad added 57 runs. But when the total was 123, Asad Baig was caught off Dhamikka for a well-made 29. In the same over Dhamikka removed Shehzad for 23 and Evergreen were once again in trouble.

When the umpire Victor D'Souza and Phillips called 'time', Evergreen were 146 for nine and as at the same stage of their innings Lanka Lions were 134, the match was awarded to Evergreen because of a faster run-rate. Arshed Pindiwal (16) runs was unbeaten at the end.

Rainey fastest for Japanese Grand Prix

SUZUKA, Japan, March 24. (Reuters). Wayne Rainey headed fellow American Kevin Schwantz in today's final practice for tomorrow's season-opening Japanese 500cc motorcycle Grand Prix.

Yamaha rider Rainey, runner-up to Schwantz last year, clocked the fastest time of two minutes 09.589 seconds, inside the track record.

"Everything is going well," reported Rainey, second in last year's world championship behind fellow Californian Eddie Lawson.

Schwantz had to settle for 2:10.329 on his Suzuki as rain prevented riders from improving their times in the final session. The Texan qualified fastest nine times in the 15-round series last season.

Rainey's early form increases the pressure on Yamaha rider Lawson and Schwantz, who is bidding for his third successive win at his favourite Suzuka circuit.

Former world champion Wayne Gardner of Australia, forced to miss five races after breaking his left leg in the US Grand Prix last April, took his Honda to third place in 2:10.446.

Lawson was fourth in 2:10.525 and Australian Michael Doohan, fifth with 2:11.167 on his Honda.

American John Cocinski headed 250cc practice with 2:14.273.

Gaston triumphs

LLORET DE MAR, Spain, March 25. (AP). Spanish rider Inaki Gaston won the 27th Catalanian week cycling race and Mathias Hermans of the Netherlands won the fifth and last leg yesterday.

Hermans won the 154.5-kilometre (95.7-mile) leg with start and finish in Lloret de Mar and studded with three mountain peaks in three hours, 56 minutes and 37 seconds.

Both Dominguez, who finished second, and Passera, who was third, were clocked in the same time as Hermans.

Gaston, a 26-year-old Basque who has worn the green jersey of overall leader since the second leg, also finished the leg in the same time as Hermans and topped the final standings in the five-day 805-kilometre race.

Vendiola, Opiana remain undefeated



Niel Dumlaio and Danny Calesin in their fourth round match.

INGEMAR "Ingy" Vendiola and Gil Opiana Jr outstaged their respective opponents to remain undefeated after 5 rounds of the 7-round Swiss system chess tournament organised by the Filipino Chess Club in Kuwait "Filcheck".

With two more rounds to play, anything is still possible as to who will make it to the 'magic four'. The champion and the three runner-ups of both groups will each receive a trophy donated by Trico (No-Kilo) Forwarders and available gift items from Seven-Up Bottling Company and Adawiah Universal Electronics, distributor of Kasparov Chess Computers in Kuwait.

In Group A, little known Ingy Vendiola retained his solo lead by defeating veteran Rene Mostrales in 64 moves of a

Danish gambit. Rene, playing white, gained control of the game in the opening play but finally gave-up to Ingy's slow positional plays.

Tournament favourite Niel Dumlaio is back in contention by winning over Ali Macayan when the latter made a serious blunder in his 45th move of a Ruy Lopez variation. Up and coming Edwin Borigas kept his bid alive by outmanoeuvring Arnel Matutino in 71 moves of a French defence. Niel now has 4 points while Edwin has 3-1/2 points to stay second and third place respectively behind group leader Ingy Vendiola who now has 5 points.

Also in Group A, Danny Alasin made a brilliant rook sacrifice in his 37th move of a Sicilian defence to win over

Sammy Aurellano after 41 moves. Danny now has 3 points together with Thony Monreal, Rene Monstrales, Ali Macayan and Rading Moje.

In Group B, Gil Opiana Jr continued to dominate his by registering his fifth straight win at the expense of newcomer Dads Pates in 45 moves to Alekhine defence. Robert Vargas and Hussain Ahmad kept their contention alive by defeating their respective rivals. Both now share second place with 4 points each. In third position is Dads Pates with 3-1/2 points.

All punched together in fourth place with 3 points each were Diony Bartolome, Mel Espinosa and Bernard de los Reyes who won over Jun Alejandro, Dedi Herras

(default) and Fred Marasigan respectively.

Meanwhile, preparation for the club's "Black and White Nite" is in full gear which will feature the awarding ceremonies of the ongoing tournament and the induction of the club's first set of officers. Expected to attend the occasion are officials of the Philippine Chess Federation, sponsors and prominent leaders of the Filipino community.

Sixth round schedule Friday, March 30, 1990.

Group B (12.00 noon)

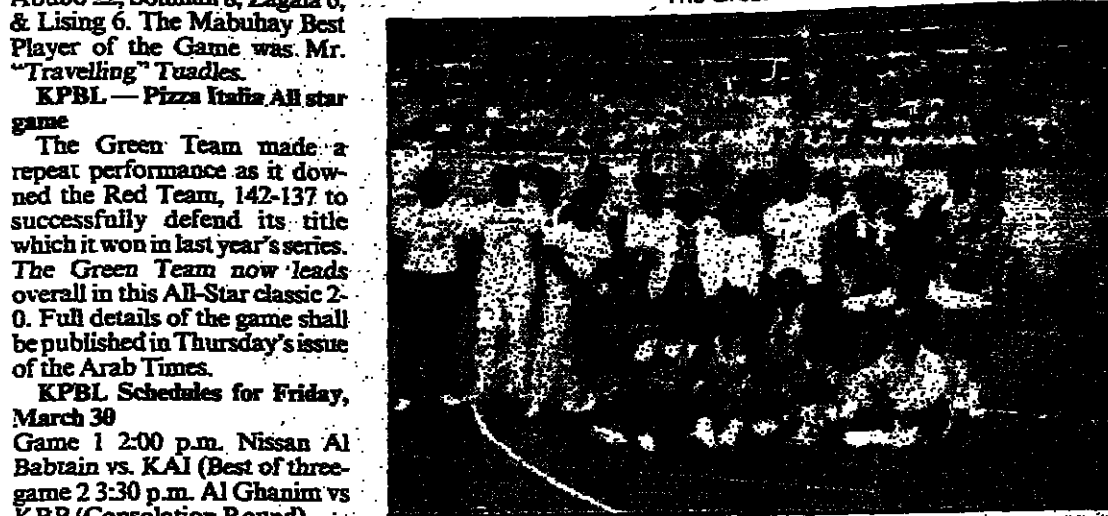
W vs B: 8-6; 5-2; 3-9; 16-4; 17-15; 13-7; 14-20; 18-1.

Group A (3.00 pm)

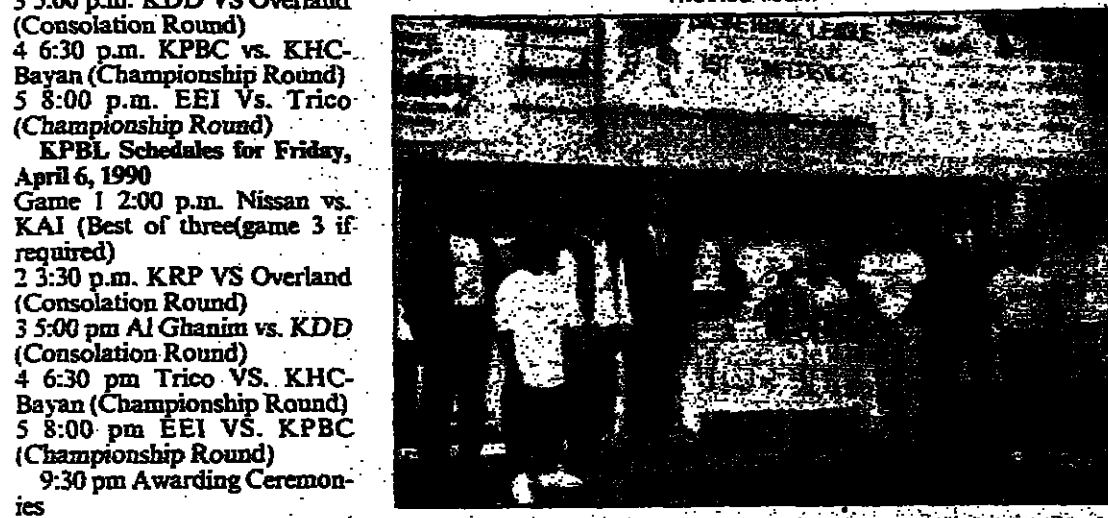
W vs B: 18-11; 13-3; 8-16; 7-1; 2-15; 12-9; 19-17; 4-Bye.



The Green Team



The Red Team



The Pizza Italia and KPBC officials

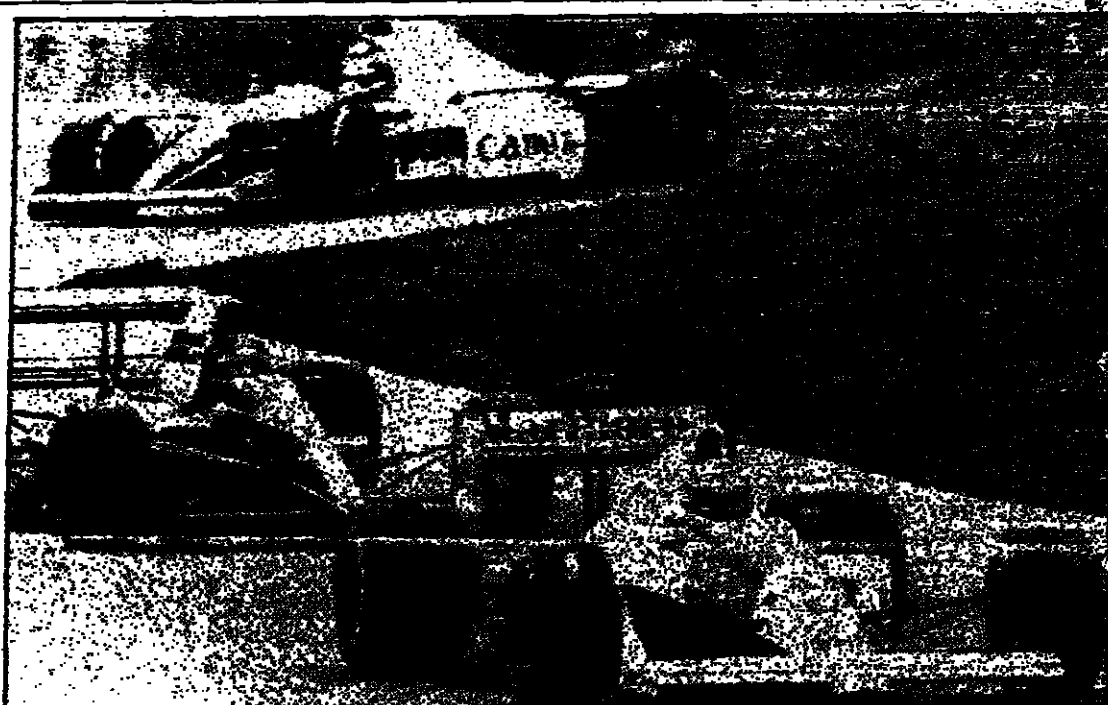
Timman takes time-out

KUALA LUMPUR, March 24. (Reuters). Jan Timman of the Netherlands took time-out from the ninth game of the World Chess Final against Anatoly Karpov of the Soviet Union today.

The game will take place on Monday with Timman, who has not called for his second and last time-out in the 12-game match, playing white.

Each player is allowed two time-outs and Karpov has used one. Karpov beat Timman in 38 moves in the eighth game yesterday and currently leads by 5.5 points to 2.5; the winner is the first to reach 6 points.

Karpov is one win away from another chance to take the title from world champion Gary Kasparov, also of the Soviet Union.



Senna (front), Olivier Grovillard of France (2nd) and Boutsen during the practice session. (Reuters wirephoto)

Senna claims provisional pole

SAO PAULO, Brazil, March 24.

(Reuters). Ayrton Senna claimed provisional pole position for tomorrow's Brazilian Grand Prix with another blistering demonstration of his special driving skills during yesterday's opening qualifying session on his home town circuit.

The Brazilian clocked a fastest time of one minute 17.769 seconds midway through a session run in welcome dry conditions after several days of heavy rain.

His McLaren team mate Gerhard Berger of Austria, was second quickest in 1:17.888 and shares the front row of the provisional grid with Senna, winner of the season-opening Phoenix race two weeks ago.

The Williams pair of Belgian Thierry Boutsen and Italian Riccardo Patrese were third and fourth fastest ahead of the two Ferraris of British Nigel Mansell and Frenchman Alain Prost, both of whom complained that their Goodyear qualifying tyres were not working well.

For most of the Formula One fraternity, having endured downpours, ramshackle conditions at the circuit where the pits and paddock are less than half-completed and all the problems which go with an economy in the grip of rampant inflation, it was a familiar and welcome sight to see the expected three leading teams



Prost smile after backing into a fire hydrant in Sao Paulo. (Reuters wirephoto)

at the head of proceedings.

None of the teams using the Pirelli tyres which were so successful for the Tyrrell, Minardi and Dallara teams in Phoenix, were able to make a serious impression.

Italian Pierluigi Martini, in a Minardi, was seventh fastest ahead of fellow-Italian Andrea de Cesaris in a Dallara.

Jean Alesi, the Frenchman who finished second in the United States Grand Prix, was ninth fastest in his Tyrrell.

Senna said afterwards that he felt he would need to improve his time today if he was to hold on to pole, and also complained of pain from his neck.

He said: "I didn't drive my very best and the car felt a little tight. I went wide on a couple of

corners and also caught a bit of rain slightly on one corner. So I know I can improve."

"Also, I need a strap on my helmet tomorrow to help support it on the side of the cockpit."

"I have a slight problem on one side of my neck and when I hit a bump through a long corner, I feel a crack and a pain in my neck. But everything should be okay for Sunday and the race."

Berger said he had too much understeer on his second fast-run with his second set of qualifiers and effectively lost the last two corners.

"I don't really like this track very much," he said. "It is not super exciting like Spa or Brands Hatch for example. It is not going to be easy to overtake here in the race."

LANCOPITA

Hornets outclass Knicks

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina, March 24. (AP): Dell Curry hit 10 of 14 shots and scored 24 points, including three clutch shots in the final minutes, as the Charlotte Hornets beat New York 106-93 last night, sending the Knicks to their fifth consecutive loss.

Armon Gilliam scored 26 points for the Hornets, who won for the third time in four games, but still have the worst record in the NBA at 13-53.

The Knicks rallied from an 83-67 deficit to close to 89-81 with 4:37 remaining, but Curry hit three consecutive long jumpers to blunt the comeback. Curry hit three of four 3-point attempts in the game.

Patrick Ewing extended his club record of scoring 20 points or more to 26 consecutive games with 32 points. New York, which has been in first place in the Atlantic Division for most of the season, fell into third place with the loss.

76ers 115, Kings 99
Hersey Hawkins scored 21 points and sparked a 17-2 fourth-quarter run for Philadelphia against Sacramento.

Charles Barkley added 12 points and 21 rebounds for the 76ers, who improved their home record to 28-5. The Kings, who got 27 points and 11 rebounds from Wayne Tisdale, are now 5-28 on the road.

Philadelphia led 81-73 at the start of the fourth quarter, and Hawkins scored seven points during the 17-2 run that turned the game into a rout.

Celtics 101, Hawks 98
Boston nearly blew all of a 31-point third-quarter lead as Atlanta's Kenny Smith scored all 19 of his points in the second half, but the Celtics held on.

The Hawks cut a 71-40 deficit with 7:20 left in the third quarter to 99-96 with 46 seconds to play when Smith hit one of two free throws.

Larry Bird, who scored 23 points, sank two foul shots for Boston with 30 seconds remaining, but Alexander Volkov's layup with 23.4 seconds to go made it 101-98.

Pacers 125, Nets 109
Rick Smith had 30 points and 14 rebounds and Reggie Miller scored 25 points as Indiana handed New Jersey its 22nd consecutive road loss and ninth straight defeat overall.

The Nets, who got 27 points from Sam Bowie, stayed close until late in the fourth quarter, when Chuck Person sparked a 12-0 surge. Person scored 11 of his 22 points in the period.

Lakers 110, Clippers 102
Magic Johnson scored 28 points as the Los Angeles Lakers reached the 50-win plateau for the 11th consecutive season.

The Clippers' defeat extended their winless streak at the forum to 25 games, including 16 straight since the franchise was moved from San Diego to Los Angeles for the 1984-85 season.

The Clippers, who dropped their fourth in a row despite Charles Smith's 23 points and Benoit Benjamin's 20, got 12 third-quarter points by Winston Garland to whittle a 17-point deficit to 80-71. But they never got closer than eight after that.

Results
L.A. Lakers 110, L.A. Clippers 102
Utah 106, Golden State 91
Phoenix 120, Minnesota 99
Indiana 115, Sacramento 99
Boston 101, Atlanta 98
Charlotte 106, New York 93
Dallas 106, Miami 103
Chicago 102, Cleveland 95

Logie hits 98 on return from injury

England seamers rout W. Indies



Devon Malcolm: took four wickets

innings. Malcolm extracted some extra bounce and had Gordon Greenidge caught at short leg with the total five.

The score had not changed three overs later when Desmond Haynes, in his first innings as captain, drove at Small but was caught at third slip without scoring, the ball having moved away off the seam.

Richie Richardson was also undone by movement off the seam, being caught behind pushing forward to Fraser, while Carlisle Best played a rather loose shot outside the off stump and was caught at third slip off Fraser.

Two balls later, Jeff Dujon offered no stroke to Small and was leg before to a ball that came

back, making the score 79 for five.

Logie, playing in front of his home crowd after missing the first two Tests with a broken finger, now launched a revival, receiving staunch support initially from Carl Hooper in a sixth wicket stand of 63 in 17 overs.

When he had scored 17, Logie was missed by wicketkeeper Jack Russell off Malcolm but made the most of his good fortune to help lift the total to 92 before David Capel had Hooper caught behind for 32 with a beauty that moved away late.

Malcolm quickly disposed of debutant Ezra Moseley for a duck with the aid of a superb, diving catch by Russell, and in his next over also sent back Curtly Ambrose.

West Indies were then 103 for eight but Ian Bishop survived for 101 minutes in a ninth wicket stand of 74 with Logie which ended when Bishop was bowled by Malcolm for 16.

Logie was on 87 when last man Courtney Walsh joined him and the Trinidadian had moved to within 20 of his century when he tried to cut Fraser but failed to keep the ball down and was well caught by Allan Lamb in the gully.

The pitch had lost much of its life by the time England batted,

although Larkins was struck a glancing blow on the helmet by Bishop, who also had a confident lbw appeal against Gooch turned down.

Haynes, leading the side in the absence of the unfit Viv Richards, turned to the off-spin of Hooper, who had Larkins dropped by the West Indian skipper at first slip in what proved to be the last over of the day.

Scoreboard

WEST INDIES first innings	
G. Greenidge c Stewart b Malcolm	5
D. Haynes c Lamb b Small	8
R. Richardson c Russell b Fraser	8
C. Best c Lamb b Fraser	10
J. Dujon lbw b Small	4
G. Logie c Lamb b Fraser	98
C. Hooper c Russell b Malcolm	32
E. Moseley c Russell b Malcolm	0
C. Ambrose c Russell b Malcolm	7
I. Bishop b Malcolm	16
C. Walsh not out	8
Extras (lb-4 nb-7)	11
Total	199
Fall of wickets	1-5 2-5 3-22 4-27 5-29 6-92 7-93 8-103 9-177
Bowling	Small 17-4-41-2, Malcolm 20-2-60-4, Fraser 13-1-24-1-3, Capel 15-2-53-1
ENGLAND first innings	
G. Gooch not out	19
W. Larkins not out	19
Extras (b-2 lb-3)	5
Total (no wicket)	43
To bat	A. Stewart, A. Lamb, R. Smith, R. Bailey, D. Capel, R. Russell, G. Small, A. Fraser, D. Malcolm
Bowling (to date)	Ambrose 5-1-11-0, Bishop 6-1-17-0, Walsh 2-1-8-0, Hooper 1-0-2-0



Kelly (centre) shakes hands with Bills general manager Bill Polian after the announcement of the contract. (Reuters wirephoto)

Kelly wins \$20m contract

NEW YORK, March 24. (AP): Buffalo Bills' star quarterback Jim Kelly has become football's highest paid player and Chicago's Neal Anderson the top-paid running back in the National Football League.

"I just want to be considered up in the elite whether I was the highest-paid player or the sixth-highest-paid player," said the 30-year-old Kelly, whose \$20 million, 7-year deal will begin after next season when he completes the final year of his current contract for \$1.4 million.

He will be 38 when the deal expires.

Anderson, a two-time pro bowler and the League's fourth-leading rusher last season, agreed to a contract that one source put at \$6 million over four years.

Depending on how the salary and bonuses break down, it will put him at or near the top of the League's running backs. Indianapolis' Eric Dickerson made \$1.3 million last year.

"It's an extraordinary amount of money," Bears president Michael McCaskey said of the Anderson deal.

Just three weeks ago — before the NFL announced its \$3.64 billion, four-year television deal — Anderson rejected an offer for \$5.6 million and threatened to try to sell his services elsewhere.

Last week, as they concluded their spring meetings, NFL owners said they would spread at least part of the revenue to the players. The new contract will mean that each team's TV revenue will increase from \$17 million in 1989 to an average of \$32 million over the next four years.

"Our next step is to get some of the money to the players," said commissioner Paul Tagliabue.

Hadlee available for tour of England

WELLINGTON, March 24. (Reuters): Richard Hadlee and New Zealand captain John Wright have ended weeks of speculation by declaring their availability for New Zealand's cricket tour of England, starting in May.

Hadlee, the only player to have taken 400 Test wickets, said on the eve of his one-day testimonial series against a World XI: "I've got to hang on in there for another three months."

The pace bowler said his earlier retirement announcement had left the door open for the England tour because he had announced only that the New Zealand-Australia Test which ended on Monday was his last home appearance for his country.

"I've therefore considered it and have decided that the tour of England is on."

Wright, scorer of three centuries in four Tests this season, said his good form convinced him he should go to England.

"I've been on three tours to England and I thought that was it, I'd never go back. I definitely wouldn't have if I hadn't played well this season," he said.

Ian Botham vowed yesterday he will get back his place in the England cricket team after a two-year absence because of a back injury.

"I'm fit and my back injury has now completely healed," he said during a speaking tour of the Gulf.

"I'm raring to go. I'm determined to regaining my place in the English team," he said.

The 34-year-old former England Test captain has been getting back to peak fitness.

Botham is one of the world's finest all-rounders, with 373 wickets and 5,057 runs in Tests matches to his credit.

Since he has been sidelined, his Test wicket record has been eclipsed by New Zealand's Richard Hadlee with 396.

"I don't mind the challenges from the younger all-rounders in the English team. I thrive on challenges," Botham said.

When he returns to England next week, he will join his county club, Worcestershire, for pre-season training in the Bahamas.

Hoch takes one-stroke lead

ORLANDO, Fla., March 24. (Reuters): Scott Hoch birdied the 16th and 17th holes to take a one-stroke lead after two rounds of the \$900,000 Orlando Invitational men's golf tournament yesterday.

Hoch, who has a home here alongside the 18th fairway, had a round of four-under-par 68 for a total of seven-under-par 137 at Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill Club and Lodge.

Corey Pavia, Larry Nelson, Jay Don Blake and Billy Andrade were tied at six-under-par 136. Curtis Strange, Tom Watson, Billy Mayfair and Australia's Craig Parry were next in line at 139.

Nick Faldo of Britain, after a round of 67, and Jose-Maris Olazabal were among those tied at 141. Greg Norman of Australia was at 142.

Some of the other foreign players did not fare as well. Ian Woosnam of Britain was at 143, while Roman Rafferty of Ireland was at 147 after a 75. Bernhard Langer of West Germany with a 77 was at 148 and Sandy Lyle of Britain stood at 149. Seve Ballesteros of Spain struggled for the second straight day with a 76 for a 153 total.

"The way I'm playing, I should be missing the cut," Hoch said. "I putted poorly yesterday and while it was better today, it still wasn't as good as it needs to be."

His finest shot of the day came on the 219-yard 17th hole. He struck a great two-iron shot that stopped six inches from the cup.

Jones ahead

PHOENIX, Ariz., March 24. (Reuters): American Rosie Jones birdied the last hole to pull ahead of countrywomen Kristi Albers and Donna White by one stroke after the second round of the \$500,000 Turquoise Classic women's golf tournament yesterday.

Jones, with five birdies on the day, recorded a three-under-par 70 on the 6,514-yard Moon Valley Country Club course. Albers shot a 70 and White a two-under-par 71.

"I am proud of myself because I was tough and I could hang in there," Jones said. "It was not a very pretty round. But I'll take it."

White, who returned to the tour just last week after major surgery, recorded five birdies and three bogeys in her round.

Montgomerie moves clear

FLORENCE, Italy, March 24. (Reuters): Britain's Colin Montgomerie charged into a two-shot lead in the Volvo Open yesterday by adding a second round 64 to his opening 65.

The former Walker Cup amateur, bidding to repeat his initial European Tour triumph in last year's Portuguese Open, missed only one green as he carded a 15-under-par total of 129.

Overnight leader Russell Claydon of Britain dropped to a 68 after his Ugolino course record 63 and was joined in second place by Australian Peter

O'Malley, round in 64, and Briton Roger Chapman, 66.

Montgomerie, a professional since 1987, started the tournament in 100th place on the Order of Merit after a run of poor finishes.

"What's changed everything is studying a video of my victory in Portugal. I've been hooking the ball badly and I spotted I'd got my hands about an inch too far forward at address," he said.

"Since straightening out my long game my confidence has come back and I feel as if I can win again."

Queensland put in a spin

SYDNEY, March 24. (Reuters): Queensland's chances of winning the Sheffield Shield cricket competition for the first time were destroyed by New South Wales spinners Greg Matthews and Adrian Tucker on the second day of the final today.

After dismissing New South Wales for 360, Queensland were reduced to 91 for eight in their first innings with the spinners sharing a six-wicket haul.

In only his third Shield match Tucker took three for 12 in a seven-over spell which saw Australian captain Allan Border, Craig McDermott and Mike Kasprovicz fall to his leg spin.

At one stage he was on a hat-trick. Dirk Tazelaar survived his first ball but became Matthews' third victim when he was trapped lbw for nought.

Matthews, bowling from the end where he took seven for 50 against Tasmania earlier this month, finished with three for 25.

Queensland opener Geoff Foley was taken to hospital after being hit in the helmet by a bumper from fast bowler Wayne Holdsworth. He retired hurt after complaining of double vision.

Loyola and Minnesota reach NCAA finals

NEW YORK, March 24. (AP): Loyola Marymount survived a slowdown and Minnesota finished fast last night to reach their first NCAA Regional finals. Georgia Tech and UNLV, teams that have been there before, also reached the final eight with tense, tight victories.

Kenny Anderson saved Georgia Tech with a controversial buzzer beating regulation and Dennis Scott sank a short jumper with eight seconds left in overtime as the Yellow Jackets beat Michigan State 81-80 at the Southeast Regional in New Orleans.

Anderson tied the game at 75 with a 19-foot jumper as regulation ended. However, television replays indicated the ball was still in Anderson's hands when the horn sounded.

"I still think we won the game in regulation and lost it in overtime," Michigan State coach Jud Heathcote said.

Georgia Tech (27-6) will play tomorrow against Minnesota (23-8). Kevin Lynch scored 16 of his 18 points in the second half and the Golden Gophers capitalized on Syracuse's free-throw problems for an 82-75 victory.

Loyola was held to half its scoring average against



Rebels' Larry Johnson (centre) fights a double coverage for a shot at the basket. (Reuters wirephoto)

Alabama, but managed to pull out a 62-60 win on Terrell Lowery's driving layup with 33 seconds left at the West Regional in Oakland, California.

The Lions (26-5), playing with passion for their late star Hank Gathers, will meet UNLV (32-5)



Willie Burton (left) of Minnesota drives against Billy Duane of Syracuse. (Reuters wirephoto)

tomorrow. All-American Larry Johnson had 20 points and 13 rebounds as the Runnin' Rebels ended Ball State's season 69-67.

Minnesota took the lead for good, 61-60, on a 3-pointer by Lynch with 9:22 to play. He scored 12 of the Gophers' 13

ship game to Indiana 74-73 on Keith Smart's jumper.

Today, Connecticut were to play Duke in the East final at East Rutherford, NJ and Texas were to meet Arkansas for the Midwest Championship in Dallas.



GOVERNMENT WARNING: SMOKING IS A MAIN CAUSE OF LUNG CANCER AND DISEASES OF THE LUNGS, HEART AND ARTERIES

Sanchez continues her climb

HOUSTON, March 24, (AP): Arantxa Sanchez Vicario is running out of rungs to climb on the women's professional tennis ladder.

She turned pro as a compact 14-year-old and finished 1986 as the 124th ranked women's tennis player in the world.

The hard-hitting Spaniard moved up to No. 47 in 1987, to No. 18 in 1988 and reached No. 5 in 1989, a year in which, at age 17, she became the youngest French Open winner.

She will be looking for an even higher ranking in the \$225,000 Virginia Slims of Houston tournament, beginning Monday at the Westside Tennis Club in this Texas City.

"When you are trying to get to the top you concentrate on everything," Sanchez said. "I need more work on my serve and volley. I'm not very tall but I need to be able to charge the net more."

Sanchez runs, lifts weights and does aerobics.

"I already had pretty strong legs, I used to play soccer with the boys," she said.

Sanchez charged onto the American tennis scene in 1986 and made her US debut against Martina Navratilova, who won 7-6, 6-4.

Sanchez is 0-4 in career matches against Navratilova and will again be pursuing her this week.

Navratilova, who has entered three Virginia Slims events this year and won them all, is top seeded and will be seeking her 150th career tournament victory.

Zina Garrison of Houston, ranked No. 4 in the world and playing with local crowd support, is the second seed.

Sanchez, the third seed, last played in Houston two years ago.

Then she lost again to Navratilova, who has won the Houston event six times, most recently in 1985, and now is rated No. 2 in the world.

The highlight of Sanchez' career was her upset of Steffi Graf in the finals of last year's French Open.

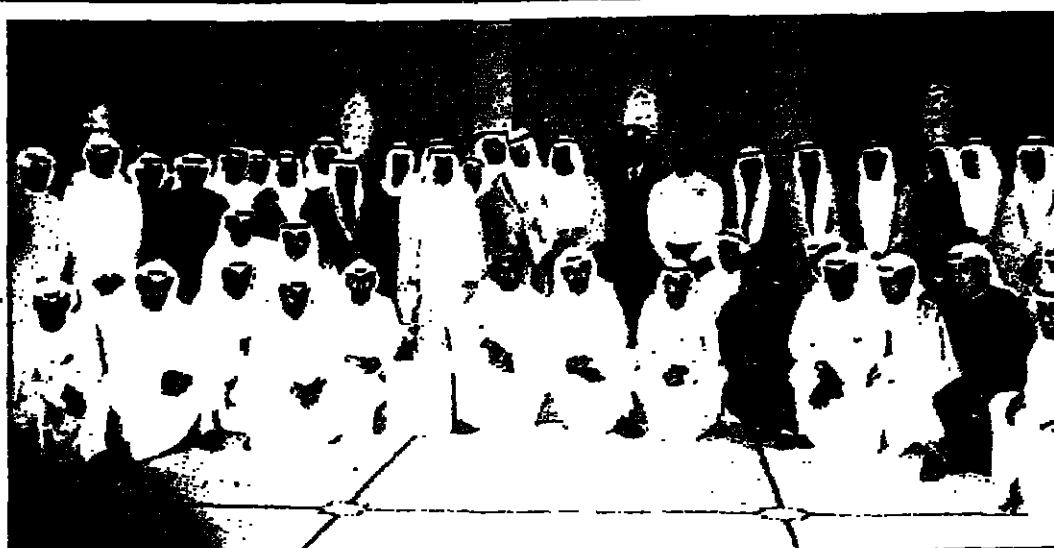
She expects to be more competitive in 1990.

"I'm a lot more experienced now, all my shots are better and I'm older, so it's different than two years ago," she said.

Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria is seeded fourth, followed by Natalia Zvereva of the Soviet Union, Laura Gildemeister of Argentina, Sandra Cecchini of Italy and Gretchen Majors of the United States.



Arantxa Sanchez



Amir receives Kuwait national soccer team

H.H. the Amir yesterday received members of the Higher Organising Committee of the 10th Arab Gulf Cup football tournament along with officials and members of the Kuwait national soccer team. Kuwait won the tournament which was held at the Peace and Friendship Stadium earlier this month. The reception was



attended by the Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed and Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed, Kuwait Football Association and Kuwait Olympic Council chairman and also head of the Higher Organising Committee.

Palace put a spoke in Villa's wheel

United beat Southampton to move up



Neil Webb: back from injury

LONDON, March 24, (AP): Garry Thompson, who used to play for Aston Villa, scored the goal that beat his old team today as Crystal Palace upset League-leading Villa 1-0 to keep the English championship race wide open.

Thompson struck after five minutes and on-the-road Villa wasn't able to tie the score for the remaining 85. Palace could have hit further goals against an ineffective visitor.

With Liverpool idle, Villa missed its chance to climb further ahead in the standings. It finished the day where it started with 59 points, but now from 31 games. Liverpool, with two games in hand, has 56 points.

The only other team with a chance of catching either of them, defending champion Arsenal, moved to within nine points of the lead by winning 3-1 at Derby.

Arsenal, an easy target on the road this season, suddenly reproduced its home form and won with two goals from Martin Hayes and one from Kevin Cam-

pbell. "The main thing we want to do is start winning our games," Hayes said. "If the others go on winning, we won't catch them. If they don't, who knows?"

Manchester United scored an important away victory in its fight to move out of the relegation zone. Second-half goals by Colin Gibson and Mark Robins upset highly-rated Southampton 2-0.

"We are desperate for points at the moment," said United's English international midfielder Neil Webb, who came on as a second-half substitute for the first time since a long injury layoff. "But when the chips are down, we seem to show more character."

Results

English Division One	
Coventry	1
Crystal P	1
Derby	3
Everton	3
Luton	2
QPR	2
Southampton	0
Wimbledon	1
Sheffield Wed	1
English Division Two	
Blackburn	2
Bournemouth	0
Watford	0

1	Bradford	0
2	Portsmouth	0
3	Plymouth	1
4	Oldham	3
5	Oxford	3
6	Swindon	2
7	Wolves	1
8	Sheff U	1
9	Barnsley	2
10	Sunderland	4
11	West Ham	3
12	Stoke	1
13	West Bromwich	1

Postponed: Brighton v Middlesbrough	
English Division Three	
Birmingham	0
Blackpool	0
Bolton	0
Bristol R	2
Cardiff	1
Crewe	1
Fulham	1
Leyton O	1
Mansfield	1
Newport	0
Shrewsbury	2
Wigan	1
Huddersfield	2

Played Friday	
Swansea	0
Bury	1
English Division Four	
Aldershot	2
Exeter	5
Gillingham	1
Grimsby	2
Halifax	1
Harrogate	1
Leeds Utd	4
Scarbrough	0
Southport	0
Wrexham	2
Colchester	2

Played Friday	
Southend	2
Stockport	0
Scottish Premier Division	
Aberdeen	2
Dundee U	1
Dundee	1
Dunfermline	0
Hears	0
St Mirren	0

Rangers	
0	Hibernian
Scottish Division One	
1	Aberdeen
2	Ayr
3	Clyde
4	Clydebank
5	Dumfries
6	Hamilton
7	Morton
8	Partick
9	Queen's Park
10	Stirling
11	Stranraer
12	Thistle
13	West of Scotland
14	West of Fife
15	West of Lothian
16	West of Perth
17	West of Ross
18	West of Shetland
19	West of Highland
20	West of Moray
21	West of Aberdeenshire
22	West of Angus
23	West of Argyll
24	West of Inverclyde
25	West of Highland
26	West of Shetland
27	West of Lothian
28	West of Fife
29	West of Perth
30	West of Ross
31	West of Shetland
32	West of Lothian
33	West of Fife
34	West of Perth
35	West of Ross
36	West of Shetland
37	West of Lothian
38	West of Fife
39	West of Perth
40	West of Ross
41	West of Shetland
42	West of Lothian
43	West of Fife
44	West of Perth
45	West of Ross
46	West of Shetland
47	West of Lothian
48	West of Fife
49	West of Perth
50	West of Ross

Standings	
English Division One	
1	Aston Villa
2	Liverpool
3	Arsenal
4	Everton
5	Chelsea
6	Tottenham
7	Nottingham Forest
8	Coventry
9	Southampton
10	QPR
11	Norwich
12	Wimbledon
13	Sheffield Wed
14	Derby
15	Crystal P
16	Manchester U
17	Luton
18	Manchester C
19	Charlton
20	Millwall

Challengers cut down Jahra's lead

Top teams bunched together

THE race for the Kuwait Soccer League title has intensified after Jahra's clear lead at top of the table has been whittled down by three major clubs.

Before the resumption of the League matches, after over two months of stoppage for the 10th Gulf Cup, Jahra was leading with 17 points closely followed by Al Kuwait with 15. Al Arabi and Qadsia were way behind with 12 and 11 points respectively. Now two matches after the resumption, Jahra has collected only one point, the same as Al Kuwait but Al Arabi and Qadsia convincingly won their fixtures to raise their tallies to 16 and 15 points respectively.

All clubs have now played 13 games each and they will have to play another 8 games to

complete the League's three-leg system, introduced for the first time this season specially to increase the number of matches.

There are 8 teams in the First Division and 6 in the second. The last team in the First Division is relegated to the second while the winner of the Second Division is promoted to the first.

Although the battle for the League championship has intensified, the race to avoid relegation has not greatly changed. Al Nasr with 10 points, Salmiya with 9 and Yarmouk with 8 points are the three teams fighting for survival. Salmiya lost its two last outings to Al Nasr and Qadsia. Al Nasr lost one and Yarmouk lost one and drew the other.

The struggle at top was the result of a good

2-0 win by Kazma over leaders Jahra and a 1-0 win by Qadsia over second-placed Al Kuwait, both in the 12th week.

In the 13th week games, played on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Yarmouk and Kazma drew 1-1, Al Arabi crushed Al Nasr 4-1. Al Kuwait drew with Jahra 1-1 and Qadsia overcame Salmiya 3-1.

With the result of this week's matches, Jahra are still on top with 18 points, followed by Al Kuwait and Al Arabia on 16 points each, Qadsia on 15, Kazma, 12, Al Nasr 10, Salmiya 9 and Yarmouk in last place with 8 points.

Fabaheel, who were relegated to the Second Division last season, are now comfortably leading that division.

Bedi manager

Azharuddin stays captain

CALCUTTA, March 24, (Reuters): Mohammed Azharuddin was named captain today for India's cricket tour of England starting in June despite his disappointing maiden foray to New Zealand.

Azharuddin, India's third captain in as many months when named to lead the side in New Zealand during January and February, will also captain his country in the Sharjah Cup one-day tournament starting next month, chairman of selectors Raj Singh Dungarpur said.

The young Indian side lost the three-match Test series in New Zealand 1-0.

The team for the England tour will be announced on April 15.

Dungarpur said former Test skipper Bishen Bedi would again manage the sides for Sharjah and England.

The Indian squad is due to arrive in England on June 23.

Jager and Biondi set swim records

NASHVILLE, Tenn., March 24, (Reuters): US Olympians Tom Jager and Matt Biondi broke the American record in the 50-yard freestyle at the US Swimming Short Course Nationals yesterday.

Jager, 24, trailing after the turn, made up ground in the final 25 yards to win the event in 19.05 seconds.

The previous American short course record was 19.15 set by

Biondi, on April 2, 1987. "I was so psyched when I heard the crowd stomping and getting into it, it was crazy," Jager said. "I never felt out of the race."

Jager, who was third in the morning preliminaries, is the world record holder in the 50-metre freestyle in 22.12, set at the 1989 Pan Pacific Championships in Tokyo. Jager holds an 11-6 advantage over Biondi in their

head-to-head competition since 1984.

Biondi, 24, winner of seven medals at the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul, including five gold medals, one silver and one bronze, was second in 19.12.

"I never saw Tom," Biondi said. "I said six months ago whoever won tonight would break the record. Tom is just a great racer. I'm satisfied I swam a lifetime best."



Edberg returns a shot to Sanchez (Reuters wirephoto)

Edberg dominated the first set, then clinched the second set by breaking Sanchez in the final game with two spectacular winners.

The Swede zipped a running forehand from behind the baseline past Sanchez to make the score 30-30, then hit a backhand from off the court around the net post and into the corner to set up match point.

Sanchez, who upset top-ranked Lendl in the fourth round, was finished in 76 minutes.

The women's finals this evening was to pit No. 3 Monica Seles against No. 15 Judith Wiesner.

Berger, seeded seventh, won the final five games of the 62-minute first set but could do little thereafter against his former

Davis Cup teammate. Both players said Agassi's superior physical condition was the difference.

"I felt so strong," Agassi said. "I was so geared to hitting a thousand balls and making him work. I think he was getting a little tired and making errors on crucial points."

In the pivotal second set, Agassi won the last five games and 16 of the final 19 points. He survived four break points in the second game of the final set to tie it 1-1, then broke at love in the third and fifth games for a 4-1 lead.

Berger was hurt by six double faults and 46 unforced errors. The final two sets took only 56 minutes.

"Something I need to work on is getting in a little better shape," Berger said. "When you play Andre you have to do a lot of running, and I just got very tired."



Detroit Tigers perform stretching exercises during a work out at spring training. (Reuters wirephoto)

Baseball umpires refuse to work

PHILADELPHIA, March 24, (AP): Major League baseball umpires said yesterday they would not work during spring training to protest the way games were rescheduled after the owners' lockout of the players ended.

Exhibition games are to start Monday and opening day is April 9. The owners' lockout delayed the beginning of spring training for a month and pushed back the start of the regular season by a week.

Richie Phillips, head of the Umpires' Union, said the differences between the owners and umpires could be resolved "in a half hour." However, he said, he was still filing an unfair labour practices charge with the National Labour Relations Board.

The umpires are upset that they were not consulted about changing the schedule, Phillips said. The baseball League already has re-scheduled some games for previously open dates, and umpires are worried that will mean fewer days off.

"We won't disrupt spring training games. We don't consider this a strike. It's not a boycott," Phillips said. "It's a refusal on the part of the umpires to be recalled."

Phillips said issues to be settled included compensation for cancelled spring training games and for increased expenses incurred by umpires in the compressed spring training schedule.

Skah and Jennings triumph

AIX-LES-BAINS, France, March 24, (Reuters): Khalid Skah of Morocco trumped the Kenyan aces of cross country running to win the world title today.

He attacked a Kenyan pack of front-runners on the last bend of the 12.2-km course and held on in a close final sprint to give his country its first win in the event for more than 20 years.

Moses Tanui finished second in the same time of 34 minutes 21 seconds with Julius Korir, another Kenyan, third one second behind.

Four Kenyans finished in the top six, but John Ngugi, winner for the past four years and aiming for a record fifth title, was not among them.

He took the lead briefly after 10 minutes and delighted the crowd by cleanly clearing a hedge hurdler-style as the others stepped on it in more conventional fashion.

But Ngugi, who started training for the race only two weeks ago after resting for a month after the Commonwealth Games, ran out of steam soon afterwards and dropped out of contention.

The women's 6-km race was won by American Lynn Jennings, who went away on her own early on to finish 12 seconds ahead of Portugal's Albertina Dias. Elena Romanova of the Soviet Union was third.

It was a first win for Jennings, who had placed in the first six at the last four world championships.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Olympic chief

BARCELONA, Spain, March 24, (Reuters): Olympic chief Juan Antonio Samaranch is seeking an urgent meeting with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez to sort out problems in preparations for the 1992 Games.

Dutch squad

AMSTERDAM, March 24, (Reuters): The Dutch squad for next Wednesday's friendly in the Soviet Union has been hit by the withdrawal of AC Milan's Marco van Basten and Frank Rijkaard. John Bosman and Crean Rijkes of KV Mechelen will also be absent. A Dutch Soccer Association spokesman said yesterday.

7-a-side football

BOMBAY Boys will organise it's 7-a-side football tournament for the first time in April. Further details please contact Deepak, Simon and Anthony Carvalho on Sour Ground.

Cecon triumphs

PLANICA, Yugoslavia, March 24, (AP): Italy's Roberto Cecon won the World Cup ski jumping event today ahead of Austria's Nikoleta of Finland, whose second place earned him this season's overall title.

117m players

ZURICH, Switzerland, March 24, (AP): Fifa today denied reports that the World Cup teams from Ireland, the Netherlands and Egypt would only be allowed on Sardinia on match days when they play England in an attempt to avoid potential trouble with bootlegs.

Dutch coach

AMSTERDAM, March 24, (Reuters): Beleguered Dutch soccer coach Thijs Libregts is planning an injunction against the Dutch Soccer Association (KNVB) if they attempt to sack him before the World Cup finals, a KNVB spokesman said today.

Reports denied

ZURICH, Switzerland, March 24, (AP): Fifa today denied reports that the World Cup teams from Ireland, the Netherlands and Egypt would only be allowed on Sardinia on match days when they play England in an attempt to avoid potential trouble with bootlegs.

W. German soccer

BONN, March 24, (Reuters): Results of the W. German First Division soccer matches played today:

Hamburg	0	St Pauli	0
Borussia	0	Bayern M	0
CFB Stuttgart	0	Kaiserslaut	0
Karlsruhe	0	Nuremberg	0
Cologne	1	Borussia D	1
Waldhof M	0	Werder B	0
Bayer U	0	Fortuna D	1
Eintracht F	0	Bayer L	3
Hamburg I	0	Borussia M	3

Ireland win

DUBLIN, March 24, (Reuters): Ireland beat Wales 14-8 (half-time 10-0) in the last Five Nations Rugby Union Championship match today.

BRIDGE

RESULTS of the Sheraton Bridge Club game played on Friday:

- N/S
1. The Farahs
 2. Dona Materby and Dr Adel
 3. D. Pereira & Dr Parikh
 4. E/R
 1. Dr Reddy and Latala
 2. Mrs Sanyal and Simon
 3. Aurora and Nizar